

ment is to be made in the Act, we will come before the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days 'dengu' and viral fever has spread in all the colonies and all the houses of Delhi. The fever does not subside before seven days, even if one takes medicines or not. It means that most of the medicines manufactured to check this disease are spurious ones. Just now, the hon. Minister stated in the reply to the question that the Government cancels the license of the company found to be guilty of manufacturing spurious or sub-standard drugs. But I know that as a matter of course these companies are hardly detected. Even if they are detected their licences are cancelled for two days, Saturday and Sunday only. The Government detected 14 companies in Delhi which were manufacturing spurious or sub-standard drugs, but no action has been taken against any of them. A company called Gratus Farma was found involved in manufacturing spurious drugs and a patient died at the Safdarjang Hospital due to these drugs, but no action has so far been taken against the company by the Government. Hence the hon. Minister's claim that the Government takes action against companies manufacturing spurious drugs appears to be ridiculous. Having these things in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Government will take action against the companies manufacturing spurious and sub-standard drugs under the criminal procedure behind the bars so that the results of the spurious drugs could be avoided and there is no fun with the lives of people.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, stringent action has been taken and is being taken against the companies manufacturing spurious drugs. I have already discussed with the hon. Member about the company he made a mention of Licence of company has been cancelled. We have also asked the Controller of Drugs to take stringent action against the company found involved in manufacturing spurious drugs. Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the august House that we are concerned not only for Delhi but also have directed the State Government's to take a serious view in this regard. The controllers of Drugs in the States also take action against the companies in various States which are found involved in manufacturing of spurious drugs. We take action on the basis of information we receive from the States. The hon. Member made a mention of some of the companies in Delhi. In this connection I would like to reassure that as and when we have received a complaint against any company regarding manufacturing of spurious and sub-standard drugs by it, enquiries have been made and the company has been penalized after the completion of the enquiry. So far as the question of imposing penalty is concerned, I am sure that the hon. Member will agree with me that it is the look out of the judiciary. We only prepare cases for persecution and file the suit in the courts. Imposing of penalty does not fall in our jurisdiction, It is under the jurisdiction of the courts.

[*English*]

Report on Cholera Epidemic In Delhi

*7. Dr. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report brought out by a voluntary health organisation in Delhi on the recent cholera epidemic in the city;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any action on the findings and observations made in the report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c). Presumably, the Honourable Member is referring to the report of the Voluntary Health Association of India on the Cholera epidemic in Delhi. A copy of the report has been procured from the Voluntary

Health Association of India on 27th October, 1988. The report is under examination.

DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidence of cholera epidemic in our country in recent months has gone up like anything. It is more so particularly in rural as well as urban slum areas. So, in view of the recent experiences, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the recent efforts made and what are recent methods adopted to prevent cholera epidemic, particularly in rural as well as urban slum areas.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: As far as the report is concerned, we have received it as to how to control the gastro-enteritis and cholera in the villages. Generally the Malaria Eradication Department takes all the insecticides to those places and fogging and spraying machines are also geared into service in villages. The State Governments are also assisted in supplying these fogging machines and spraying machines. These are the preventive measures which we have to take first. As regard Delhi, we had inoculated during the time of cholera and gastro-enteritis in the month of July 1988. We had also supplied potable water and also other means of water supply with cleanliness. That is all being done the State Government and also here the Delhi Administration and Municipal Corporation have managed it well and about this I have already said.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister whether during the cholera epidemic that took place in Delhi last time, in the Medical Experts meeting it was decided not to use the then available cholera vaccine because it would not be useful to meet or counter the epidemic which spread in Delhi at that time. Is it a fact that in spite of the expert medical opinion, those ineffective drugs had been used in Delhi and inocular were administered as a result of which the cholera epidemic could not be contained in time?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Sir, in the

Expert Committee meeting held in the month of January 1988, the efficacy of vaccine was discussed and the expert committee gave an opinion that the vaccines were useful to the extent of 50% to 60%. The instructions of the Expert Committee which gave this report in January 1988, was that we had to give these vaccines in two doses. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the efficacy of the vaccine has been proved and after inoculation there was lesser number of cases and after that it subsided.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the experts are of the opinion that drinking water being supplied in South Avenue, North Avenue and in other parts of Delhi is the main cause of outbreak of cholera. If the Government has received report to this effect, I would like to know whether steps would be taken to remove the shortcoming, if there is any, in the water supply system of Delhi?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of water supply to Delhi is concerned, this work is undertaken by the Municipal Corporation. When cholera and Gastro-enteritis broke out, Delhi Administration and the Municipal Corporation had made arrangements to supply clean and potable water to the colonies affected by the epidemic because the cause of the outbreak of these diseases was contaminated water. Hand pumps in these areas were found to have been sunk upto a very short depth. Choking of nullahas and accumulation of dirt and garbage were the other factors which contributed to the outbreak of epidemic. We shall consider the report submitted by the experts and shall issue necessary directions. A meeting will be called to consider the recommendations in order to ensure that such an epidemic does not recur.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the hon. Minister order inquiry into the reported complaints of stagnation of water in the overhead tanks in North Avenue? I want the hon. Minister to say something about it.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: He has mentioned about the over head tanks of North Avenue, I have listen to his point attentively and I shall issue directions to the concerned officials about it.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I had raised this issue in the last session also when cholera broke out in Delhi. Hon. Minister had replied at that time that he would order an inquiry into it and would come to the House with the facts. This session has already started and I do not know whether inquiry has been conducted or report received by the hon. Minister? When cholera took the form of epidemic, I had told in this House that there had been reports that instead of cholera vaccine, water injections were given to the affected persons. Since this point was not replied to at that time, I want it to be replied today.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The injections which were given at that time, were not of water. What was given was cholera vaccine. I had received your complaint that cholera vaccine were not actually given to the people in the affected areas. I had said earlier also that we were getting vaccine from the Central Research Institute, Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) as also from our other units. We have been monitoring it all along and no such complaint has been received from anywhere. We have made every effort from our side. Yours was the only complaint received. Not a single complaint was received by the Delhi Administration from any part of the city where vaccine was given. Since you have raised this issue today again, I shall get information about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question.

[*English*]

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Question No. 8.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vora, it is your monopoly today. You are not giving chance to any body else.

[*English*]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: I am really thankful to all hon. Members that they have asked all questions regarding health, so, naturally.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have become cautious about their health.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right but what is needed is that the hon. Minister should also pay attention to their health.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members. Question of deterioration of my health does not arise when you are all sitting here. My health improves at the very sight of your faces.

[*English*]

Opening of New Hospitals In Tamil Nadu

*8. **Shri P.R.S. VENKATESAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new hospitals in Tamil Nadu, particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the facilities and services which Government propose to make available in these hospitals, especially for rural population?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b). Under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme, 24 Community Health Centres are proposed to be established in Tamil Nadu during the year 1988-89. Each Community Health Centre will be a referral hospital for a rural population of 80,000 to 1.20 lacs. It would provide: