

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Thursday, April 9, 1981/

Chaitra 19, 1903 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Chaudhuri Lakhan Das who was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962—67 representing Shahjahanpur reserved constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, he was also a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1937—52.

As veteran freedom fighter, he participated in national movement and suffered imprisonment.

An eminent social worker, he worked for the uplift of Scheduled Castes and backward classes.

He passed away at Raghunathpur village of Shahjahanpur district on 28th March, 1981, at the age of 85.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Charges for X-Rays in A.I.I.M.S.

*743. KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi charges for the X-rays from the patients;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the other Hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital takes no such charges from the patients; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the highest medical institution of the Country is not in a position to extend this service free of cost to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, poor and indigent patients are not charged any fee for X-rays.

(b) In Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital also no charges are levied from indigent patients. However, charges at approved rates are levied for X-rays from O.P.D. patients who declare their income to be more than Rs. 500 per month.

(c) It has been reported by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences that charges are levied for X-rays not for the purpose of raising revenues but simply to discourage the tendency of patients with paying capacity to have X-rays etc. done free of cost in the Institute hospital and to get the treatment elsewhere.

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर : अध्यक्ष जी आल इंडिया इंस्टीच्यूट आफ मेडिकल साइंसेज में सारे देश के लोग इलाज कराने के लिए आते हैं। जो गरीब लोग वहां आते हैं उनको इलाज कराने में वहां बड़ी कठिनाई और निराशा होती है क्योंकि उनसे चार्ज लिया जाता है। क्या सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी कि वहां गरीब लोगों से चार्ज नहीं लिया जाए? जो गरीब लोग संसद् सदस्य या अन्य किसी ऐसे लोगों से प्रमाण पत्र लेकर जायें कि ये गरीब लोग हैं और इनकी इतनी निश्चित आय है, ऐसे लोगों से तो पैसा नहीं लेना चाहिये। क्या सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is primarily a hospital to which cases are referred. So, the cases referred to here are for special treatment and all that. In spite of that there is a category of, as I have already said, indoor patients who are never charged for X-ray. I will just mention the practice followed in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Every patient admitted in the AIIMS has to pay Rs. 5/- which includes Registration, diet, surgical operations and all investigations. If you take an X-ray plate, on an average it costs Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per plate. But simply we are charging Rs. 5/- per patient in respect of this category are I think they are getting the specialised type of X-ray in this hospital at Rs. 5/-.

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर : मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उससे सन्तोष नहीं है। मंत्री महोदय न कहा कि 5 रुपए लगते हैं। गरीबों से 5 रुपए क्यों लिए जायें, क्या उन्हें मुफ्त यह सुविधा नहीं दी जा सकती। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस बारे में विचार किया जाए और एक योजना बनाई जाए। क्या इस पर इतना खर्च आया जिसे शासन बरदाश्त नहीं कर सकता?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: This is a very good suggestion. We will ask the Institute to work it out, if possible.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: About twenty years ago this All India Institute of Medical Sciences was commissioned to cater to the needs of referred patients totalling about 65,000 or 70,000. This was the capacity. Now that the number of patients received by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is crossing 7 lakhs annually, under the circumstances, is the Government contemplating to enhance its Plan and non-Plan Budget in accordance with the inflow of the patients?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: This question concerns primarily X-ray and charges for X-ray plates.

श्री डी. पी. यादव : एक्स-रे में आप 10 गुना बढ़ायेगे न?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I can give figures for 1980.

श्री डी. पी. यादव : आप आउट-ले बढ़ाना चाहते हैं कि नहीं, नीड्स के मुताबिक?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The hospital has its Budget according to its needs. This year we have provided enough Budget. There is enough budget provision for X-ray.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: How much? Is it ten times now? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We have not got X-raywise budget in particular.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: What is the Plan and non-Plan Budget? (*Interruptions*)

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: For indoor patient they are charging Rs. 5/- for an X-ray. But what about the out-

door patients? What about the special X-ray, for instance intervenous pyleography, cholecystography and Barium meal?

What are their charges for indoor patients and what are the charges for out-door patients? What is the difference? How do you know whether the patient is poor or not and who certifies it?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I have already said, for indoor patients we charge Rs. 5/- per X-ray plate and the maximum charges are Rs. 25/-. We have figures. On some special X-ray plates we have to incur expenditure from Rs. 100 to Rs. 1000. But even in that case we charge maximum of Rs. 25/-.

For outdoor patients we have to charge as per income. We have got full figures with us. If you want we can supply.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: We do not have a national policy as far as the health scheme is concerned. I have highlighted this point earlier as well. Due to lack of national policy in the health matter, many of the benefits are being enjoyed by the rich and the affluent. Ability to pay should be the criteria. But that is not the case in this matter. The benefits have gone to the rich and the affluent and not the poor. My question is in health matters, is the Government prepared to collaborate with other countries, other nations considering the importance of the health of the nation?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: It has not concern with this particular question.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: This is a matter relating to health. We are bound to ask certain questions with regard to this matter. If the hon.

Minister says, I am not sure of this or I am not concerned about it, that is not a proper way to reply.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: In the wake of radiation hazard in the country, will the hon. Minister consider, according to a recommendation made that not less than 100 m.m. X-Ray films are used in all the big hospitals which are under the control of the Government of India?

The hon. Minister has said that they charge money from the rich patients and the patients coming to the O.P.D. Generally, the patients come from throughout India and they are academically referred to the Institute. This is an Institute which is not meant for Delhi or neighbouring States alone. This is an Institute for all India. The rich persons go to private practitioners and other big missionary hospitals. In this context, will the hon. Minister consider in the Out Patient Department also not to charge for X-Rays from the patients?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Even for out-door patients, we have already said that the difficulty is that the people who come to the institute always declare income less than what they have. It is difficult for us to check that. Otherwise, we wanted to charge according to the capacity to pay.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Generally, academical cases are being referred by the lower hospitals to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The rich people prefer to go to private practitioners and the top doctors in the country. The people who are being referred to the Institute mostly belong to the category of Government servants or they belong to poor classes. Will the hon. Minister realise this fact and consider not to charge for X-Rays from these people which they are doing at present?

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

Another point which I asked is, to check the radiation hazard, whether the hon. Minister will ask all the big hospitals which are under his control that they will use 100 m.m. X-Ray films, not less than that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Here is a presumption which is not correct. The presumption that the hon. Member has in mind is that only poor patients are sent to the Institute. It is not correct. The experience is otherwise. The cases referred to this Hospital are not categorised as rich or poor. But the rich people come to the Hospital, our experience is that they never declare their real income and they come under the category of poor and get the treatment.

श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : एक बरस में आल इंडिया मेडिकल इंस्टीट्यूट को गर्नमेंट को एक्स-रे के लिए कितना खर्च देना पड़ता है और डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल को कितना देना पड़ता है और दोनों से आय एक बरस में कितनी कितनी होती है ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: As we have said earlier, this is done not with any intention to earn any income for the Hospital. This is done to provide free facilities to the poor patients. We do not have figures income-wise as to how much we have earned by these X-Rays. We do not maintain figures income-wise in the X-ray Department.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : आपने बताया है कि गरीबों और असमर्थ रोगियों को एक्सरे का शुल्क नहीं देना पड़ता । गरीबी और असमर्थता की जांच करने के लिए आपके पास कौन सा आला है, कि इनके कहने से किसी को आप गरीब मानते हैं ? इसका कोई मापदंड जरूर होगा । उस मापदंड की सूचना कृपया हम लोगों को दें ।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: About the category of the patient, rich or poor, he wants to know as to who is to certify. The best person is the person who comes to the hospital, that is, the patient himself; he is asked whether he is able to pay the fees or not.

Compensation to Passengers for Late Running of Trains.

*744 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers travelling by Sweden's National Railways are entitled to compensation if the trains run unduly late;

(b) whether Government would consider such measures in case of our Railways; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this directions; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A statement is laid on the table of the sabha.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) The conditions in India are not comparable to those in Sweden.

Statement

The Swedish Rail Road have advised our Embassy at Stockholm as follows:—

"The Raidroad is not bound to compensate the traveller for any damage which has occurred on account of train being delayed, train service being discontinued or because of wrong connection. The traveller has, however, still a right to be compensated within reasons for expenses incurred because of the inci-