

जिस के अन्दर वह इस को नान-वेल्बेल अफेस बना देंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल तो पहले हो चुका है ।

Survey conducted by Central Team on Leprosy in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas.

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*913. SHRI A.K.M. ISHAQUE:

SHRI R. N. BARMAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the last three years by the Central team on leprosy disease in the Chhotanagpur Division and Santhal Parganas District of Bihar State;

(b) if so, the number of persons affected by this disease; and

(c) the measures taken by Government on the basis of the survey to curb this disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

No Central Team has conducted any survey on leprosy during the last 3 years in the Chhotanagpur Division and Santhal Parganas District of Bihar State. However, the State health authorities are reported to have taken up a sample survey which is expected to be completed by the end of 1973. The exact position of prevalence of leprosy in the areas referred to in the Question will be known after the survey is completed.

Under the Fourth Five-Year Plan the National Leprosy Control Programme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 per cent central assistance for the establishment of Leprosy Control

Units, Survey Education and Treatment Centres and for upgrading of Subsidiary Centres into Leprosy Control Units. Bihar has established 25 Leprosy Control Units and 15 Survey Education and Treatment Centres of which 3 Leprosy Control Units are in the Santhal Parganas and 6 Leprosy Control Units are in the Santhal Parganas and 6 Leprosy Control Units and 4 S.E.T. Centres in Chhotanagpur Division.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The statement is brilliantly evasive. It does not reveal the information sought for. Will Government give an idea as to the number of persons affected by this virulent disease. I have information that the number of persons affected there is alarming. Will Government reveal any information about this?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): There are guess-figures regarding the leprosy-affected people. Two sample surveys were undertaken from region to region, and on that basis some information is available. But the entire country is to be covered, and we have to make an effort to a very great extent; secondly, the people would also like to conceal this disease because of the social stigma. So, every attempt is being made to gather as much information as possible.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The answer is more confusing. I was trying to elicit some information from Government to gauge the extent of the disease there, but Government would not give any information. I have information that about 30 lakh people are suffering from that particular type of disease in that area. Are Government going to deny this?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: As I have said, we have not got the exact figures. Sample surveys were undertaken, but even then, there are difficulties in gathering information on

because of the social stigma attached to this disease. We have heard all these figures, but I cannot vouchsafe that they are correct estimates.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: While Government have no information about the number of persons affected, have they contacted the Santhal Pahadi Seva Mandal which is doing a lot of service in Santhal Parganas district which has the highest percentage of leprosy in the whole country? If so, has any information been got from the Mandal?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Yesterday, Shri Dalma, who is working in that area with a number of constructive workers, met me. From whatever figures they have collected, they also admit that the disease is rampant. But the difficulty is that if in one place the percentage of the population affected is 8, in the next village it is nil. So all these matters were discussed yesterday. We are making an effort this year to find out the exact number and take as much precautions as possible.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: How many central survey committees are there and how are they being utilised for surveys in places and areas, from State to State and stage to stage?

SHRI A. K. KISKU: Under this programme, about 238 leprosy control centres and 1479 Survey, Education and Treatment centres have so far been established in the country. As for the break-up state-wise, I am prepared to give it if the member wants.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: May I know the names of the places where the sample survey was done?

SHRI A. K. KISKU: As my senior colleague has said, we are actually entering into a very systematic survey of the whole country. But there are some hyper-endemic areas like Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar etc. We are

actually making this survey so that we have a clear picture of the number of persons affected. At this stage, we cannot say that is the total number of people affected.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: Was a sample survey conducted in Bankura?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: It is true that there is a Centrally sponsored scheme with 100 per cent central assistance for the establishment of leprosy control units etc. But already there are some leprosy hospitals which are in a deplorable condition because of want of funds. It is in Government's mind that while the survey goes on, they will see to it that no hospital is wound up because of want of funds?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: The hon member is not correct in saying that there are a number of hospitals where conditions are miserable and there is no treatment and other things.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Because of lack of funds.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: It is not correct. Even when voluntary organisations come forward, we provide them with whatever funds are available. So there is no question of dearth of funds. Really we want more voluntary organisations to come forward.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the social stigma referred to a short while ago has gradually disappeared because of the fact that it is now well known that 90 per cent of leprosy cases are N. I. (non-infectious)? The patients especially are aware of it. Therefore, there is a large crowd before the leprosy clinics, everywhere, particularly in the areas referred to in the question, the clinics are not kept open the whole day as they should. They are open for only two to three hours and then they are closed. That is the first point. Secondly the medicines in the clinics

are hopelessly inadequate. Thirdly, in Bihar particularly, the two hospitals where there reconstructive surgery arrangements are available—Madhupur and Brambay—the arrangements for constructive surgery are hopelessly inadequate, and therefore, more and more patients cannot take advantage of the reconstructive surgery, which is the most modern way of getting rid of leprosy in modern times.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a speech.

SHRI PILOO MODY The point made by the hon. Member is what the Minister should have said.

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you to keep quiet? Please sit down. I am not going to allow you to do it every-time.

SHRI PILOO MODY I do not want to make it a personal tussle between me and the Speaker. But I think the Chair could set a good example here as to how a question should have been answered. In future I hope you will pay attention.

MR. SPEAKER Order, please. Everytime, free advice.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR The hon. Member mentioned the early closure of the hospital, and lack of medicines. So far as the closure is concerned, I cannot vouchsafe. So far as the availability of medicines is concerned, I think it is recognised that the prices of medicines which have got to be bought have gone up. These are matters which are engaging our attention, and once the difficulties are removed, all available medicines will be provided.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA. What about the facilities for reconstructive surgery? Are they going to expand the facilities at the Brambay and Madhupur hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER The main question is too general, but you are now asking a particular question. It is much

better you write to the Minister about it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: It is a related question.

MR. SPEAKER: It was a very general question. I do appreciate your anxiety, but it is much better you write to the Minister for these details.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : बिहार के कुछ भागों में, और इसी प्रकार मध्य प्रदेश तथा देश के अन्य राज्यो में भी, कुष्ठ रोग भयंकर रूप से फैलता जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुष्ठ रोग फैलने के मूल कारण क्या है, किन स्थानों में, कौसी बस्तियों में और किन लोगों में यह रोग विशेष रूप से फैल रहा है और उस को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने अब तक क्या कदम उठाये हैं।

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR. Usually, we find that the greater the poverty the greater is the number of the poor people who are affected by this particular disease. And as my colleague just now said, the Control units are working. For instance, in Andhra, this disease is affecting perhaps more people than in any other State. So, we are running the leprosy control units.

Agricultural Development Programme for 1973-74

*914 SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural development programme for various States, State-wise, for the year 1973-74;

(b) the item-wise allocation of funds therefor, State-wise;

(c) the target of production in respect of each item; and

(d) the rate of agricultural growth likely to be achieved with the implementation of the programme as at (a) above?