

(b) On the basis of the epidemiological data there are 2.4 lakhs estimated cases of leprosy in the State of West Bengal. The district-wise information is not readily available.

(c) Institutionalisation of leprosy patients is not encouraged now-a-days. Only complicated cases are being hospitalised. There are 17 Leprosy Inpatient Institutions with 2506 beds in the State of West Bengal. Besides, 23 Leprosy Control Units are functioning in the State under the National Leprosy Programme.

(d) With a view to control the spread of leprosy in the country, the National Leprosy Control Programme was launched in the country in 1955 in collaboration with the State/Union Territory Governments. This programme has been made a Centrally Sponsored programme since the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan with 100% Central assistance to the States. Under the National Leprosy Control Programme, 208 Leprosy Control Units, 1298 Survey Education and Treatment Centres have been established. Besides, a number of voluntary organisations working in the field of leprosy are also getting grant-in-aid from the Government of India.

#### **Efficacy Of Urea as a Human Contraceptive**

\*1641. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efficacy of Urea as a human contraceptive has been proved; and

(b) if so, what would be the unit cost of this contraceptive ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS & HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) The Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, has developed a

contraceptive device named as "Centsquare" in which urea is the main effective ingredient. The efficacy of this device is under clinical trials at present. However, in laboratory experiments, urea has been found to be an effective spermicidal agent.

(b) Centsquare is at present being prepared in Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, on a very small scale for clinical trials. The present unit cost is stated to be less than one paisa.

#### **ECOSOC Meeting and Bangla Desh Refugees**

\*1642. SHRI K. MALLANNA :  
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 51st Session of the Economic and Social Council at its meeting held in Geneva had discussed the problem of East Bengal refugees;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion; and

(c) whether any resolution has been passed ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No resolution was adopted, but the discussion succeeded in :

(1) Focussing world attention on the gravity and urgency of the problems raised by the massive influx of refugees into India and, in particular, emphasising the fact that the matter has become a question of international concern ;