

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 14, 1971/Jyaistha 24, 1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Use of Plastic Cornea for Blinds

*451. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plastic cornea has been found useful to the blind and tests carried out in the country;

(b) the approximate cost of each cornea; and

(c) the progress achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) and (c). In view of the small number of cases studied so far it would be difficult to conclude regarding the usefulness of plastic cornea to the blind.

(b) The cost of plastic cornea produced in India varies from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 500/-.

SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: May I know the names of the institutions where these operations have been performed?

SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: One is Rajendra Medical College and Hospital, Patiala and the other is the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

SHRI N. K. SINHA: I think there were some legislations in States enabling donation of human cornea by living persons. May I know its progress in various States?

SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: So far as human cornea is concerned, we have no exact figures with us. Plastic corneas are being produced at the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for ophthalmic Sciences.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he go out of the scope of the question? The question is only about plastic cornea. We can save time for other members to ask their questions later on.

Setting up of Housing Corporation for Operating Revolving Fund

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*452. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether no progress has so far been made by the Housing Corporation set up a year ago to operate the proposed Rs. 200 crore revolving fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to drop the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The Corporation has started functioning with its own duly constituted Board of Directors and from its own office. Out of about 120 housing projects involving a total investment of over Rs. 500 crores received, 5 projects involving an investment of about Rs. 62 crores have so far been tentatively approved subject to certain conditions being fulfilled by the State Governments/Housing Boards concerned.

(b) The aim of the Corporation is to raise and utilise a corpus of Rs. 200 crores as a revolving fund; this amount was to be raised through governmental allocations, mobilisa-