

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-

tion of private savings, long term borrowings from public financing institutions and also assistance from international agencies. Negotiations for loan assistance from Life Insurance Corporation, Unit Trust of India and nationalised banks are under way. As these negotiations have not yet been completed, the Corporation has not been able to sanction loans to finance any schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Which are the States where there will be centrally sponsored projects and what will be the initial capital investment?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the submission of schemes is concerned, it is a reasonably long list starting with Andhra, Gujarat etc. About 15 States have submitted 129 schemes involving over Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Since I am interested in Orissa, may I know if the financial and technical directors have visited Orissa and selected sites and, if so, which are they? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Orissa have submitted four schemes and they are under examination. No final conclusions have been reached. So far as physical visits are concerned, I am not in a position to confirm at this stage whether any experts are going there or not.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: May I know the rate of interest charged by the Housing Corporation on the loans?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The interest varies depending on the social content of the scheme. For instance, out of the five schemes tentatively approved, there is a scheme in Bombay where the rate of interest is $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and another with $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Those schemes which have more social content in the sense of providing housing for slum clearance and for people who are living in adverse housing situation the rate of interest will be lower.

मलेरिया उन्मूलन योजना की असफलता

* 453. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में मलेरिया फिर से फैल रहा है और इसका उन्मूलन करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा किए गए सभी उपाय असफल रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मन्त्री जी ने मलेरिया उन्मूलन अभियान की विफलता के सम्बन्ध में क्या पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी की 101वीं रिपोर्ट देखी है जिसमें सरकारी अधिकारियों ने कमेटी के सामने यह स्वीकार किया था कि मलेरिया का प्रकोप फिर से हो रहा है और सरकार उसको रोकने में सफल नहीं हो पा रही है। मुझे ताज्जुब है जिन मन्त्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया है, उनको स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी है या नहीं है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कौन से साल की ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : पिछले साल की रिपोर्ट है।

निर्माण और आवास तथा स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री (श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित) : जो प्रश्न था वह इतने व्यापक शब्दों में किया गया था कि 'न' के सिवाय कोई दूसरा उत्तर उसका सम्भव नहीं था। माननीय सदस्य देखें प्रश्न क्या था। Whether malaria is again spreading in the country and all the measures taken by government to eradicate it have failed. It is not spreading all over. What has happened is this. These measures were started in 1952. In 1958 a crash programme was undertaken and within a few years, by 1965 malaria was virtually eliminated, though not completely because total elimination is not possible of any disease. From 75 million cases the number came down to 0.15 million. Even last year the number is less than half a million. But from 1969-70 the incidence has increased and this is causing anxiety. Adequate measures are being taken.