

Cholera Epidemic

*1419. **Shri Sradhakur Supakar:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a widespread out-break of Cholera epidemic in several parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the precautionary and preventive measures taken this year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning and Urban Development (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): (a) There has been no abnormal rise in the incidence of Cholera except an outbreak of this disease in August, 1966, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) A medical team was immediately deputed to investigate and help in the control of the disease. The measures taken to control the disease included

(i) a mass anti-Cholera inoculation campaign with the additional help of local army medical authorities, (ii) intensive health education campaign, (iii) regular periodic disinfection of drinking water sources, (iv) improvement of sanitation and anti-fly measures, (v) food hygiene drive, (vi) quarantine restrictions, (vii) restrictions on inter-island as well as on main-land traffic, (viii) air-lifting of Cholera Vaccine from Calcutta and Central Research Institute, Kasauli, and (ix) temporary posting of additional nursing personnel and providing full quota of medical and public health officers in the territory.

(c) Does not arise.

Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*1420. **Shri P. R. Thakur:**
Shri A. K. Kisku:

Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Special Officer" or the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is intended to look after the political safeguards

provided in the Constitution for these people;

(b) whether his unique position of power and responsibility for this purpose has been statutorily laid down or codified so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phalrenu Guha): (a) and (b). Article 338 of the Constitution clearly indicates the duties and functions of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The duties and functions thus statutorily prescribed are to investigate into and report to the President on the working of all safeguards provided in the Constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Does not arise.

Development Loans from U.S.A.I.D.

*1421. **Shri Vasudevvan Nair:**
Shri C. Janardhanan:
Shri P. C. Adichan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Agency for International Development has agreed to provide to India development loans at a higher level in 1968 as compared to the previous years;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of loan from the U.S. Agency for International Development;

(c) whether any pre-conditions are laid down for providing these loans; and

(d) if so, what they are?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). The Aid Consortium in its meeting held at Paris on April 4-6, 1967, after reviewing India's overall aid requirements for 1967-68 was of the opinion that for planning purposes a target of approximately \$1,300 million (including food) for new aid to be provided in non-project form