

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed National Institute of Naturopathy at Pune is being set up to provide facilities for research in all aspects of Naturopathy and to impart education and training in the field of Naturopathy.

DR. A.K. PATEL: For the treatment of human ailments there are various '*pathies*' and naturopathy is one of the '*pathies*'. Nowadays allopathy which is the main line of treatment is becoming very costly day by day and people expect cheaper and better treatment. Naturopathy is an old science. I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government wants to take for the development of naturopathy. I want a categorical reply.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Whenever naturopathy treatment is there, whosoever is coming forward to strengthen, the Government is giving a lot of attention and is helping them.

DR. A.K. PATEL: What is the amount of money given to the institution in Pune for the development of naturopathy?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: I would like to mention here that for naturopathy as a whole in the country, there are two colleges. One is the Gandhi Nature Cure College, Hyderabad and the other is the National College of Naturopathy. And about the Pune Institute, the hon. Member asked how much financial assistance the Ministry has given. Till today we have given an amount of Rs. 28 lakhs to the Pune Institute of Naturopathy.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: The hon. Member has just now said that there are many pathies flourishing in India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is attempting to assess the relative

merits of the different pathies, like Ayurveda, Sidhi, Naturopathy, Electropathy, Electrohomoeopathy and so on. India is a poor country and cannot afford to waste its resources on all the pathies.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The hon. Member has raised a very important and serious question about the various pathies as such in the country. I would like to say that the Government is encouraging all the pathies in the country.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, Naturopathy is the oldest one in our country. As we know, old is gold. May I know from the hon. Minister, how much allocation is being made every year for the development of Naturopathy; which are the States having Institutes of Naturopathy; whether there is an Institute in Hyderabad, and if so how much amount is being allotted yearly. I want the details thereof.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, there are two Colleges, one Gandhi Nature Cure College, Hyderabad and the other National College of Naturopathy and Research, Lucknow. The Gandhi Nature Cure College, Hyderabad was previously entitled to a grant of fifty per cent of the admissible expenditure. Since this Institute has been taken over by the Andhra Pradesh Government with effect from 1st May, 1987, no grants are release beyond 1986-87, we have not given any financial assistance.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Sir, the Minister has replied to half of my question. She has not answered the other part of my question.

Report of Voluntary Health Association of India on Kala-azar

*288. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report prepared by the Voluntary Health Association of India on Kala-azar and if so,

the salient features thereof;

(b) whether Government have finalised its Action Plan to meet the emerging threat of Kala-azar in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Government has seen the Report on Kala-azar prepared by the Voluntary Health Association of India.

The important aspects covered in the report are:—

- natural history and epidemiology.
- Reasons for resurgence.
- affected districts in Bihar and West Bengal
- inadequacy of diagnostic and treatment facilities
- measures for prevention and control of disease and treatment of cases.

The Action Plan for control of Kala-azar envisages:

- interruption of transmission through insecticidal spraying.
- early diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases
- Health education

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement in itself reveals that all that has been done is giving an extract of the report, which has been placed

on the Table of the House, to the extent what the Action Plan for control of Kala-azar envisages. It is one of the most deadly diseases, which affect the poor of the nation and has affected over twenty Districts in Bengal and Bihar. It has a cycle. What they have said is, the Action Plan for control of Kala-azar envisages: interruption of transmission through insecticidal spraying; early diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases and Health education. These are the three points that are raised as to how it can be controlled. Whether they have prepared the Action Plan, I have serious doubts. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether they have estimated the number of cases in the country and what is the estimated amount of Sodium Antimony Glucomate, which is used or the alternative Pentamidyin to treat the cases and whether they have arranged for the supply of the same.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, the hon. Member is very much doubtful about the Action Plan of the Government. I just would like to mention here that the Action Plan was prepared involving an expenditure of Rs. 60.280 crores. The Planning Commission was requested to treat the implementation of Kala-azar programme, as a Centrally Sponsored Plan programme. The Planning Commission has informed that the Kala-azar Control Programme may be continued as per the existing manner during the year 1989-90 under National Malaria Eradication Programme. Sir, regarding the import of the drug Pentamidyin — of course it is a very expensive medicine which is imported — we are trying our level best to make it available for this kind of treatment in the country.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think the reply indicates that the Planning Commission is not interested in reducing the deaths or eradicating the disease—if they are going to treat it as a part of the normal Malaria programme. It is literally one of the deadly fevers that we have seen and it is shocking to see this kind of attitude on the part of the Government. I would like to know specifically whether the Government is serious about handling this. Or, is it going

to pass it as one of the Planning Commission's refusals and therefore, they cannot do anything? Pentamycin may be a costly drug which is imported. But is the life cheap? That is the question I would like to ask the hon. Minister. Does the Minister feel that the value of the drug is more important or the Balance of Payments is more important than life in India? I would like to know whether they have formed a National Kala-azar Control Programme and whether that is the action plan which the hon. Minister referred to in this House just now and whether Rs. 60 and odd crores which they had earmarked has actually been allotted or whether the plan has now been dropped because of the Planning Commission's recommendations. I presume that the hon. Minister would not reply saying that she is helpless because of the Planning Commission.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Regarding Kala-azar control programme, the Government has already given Rs. 1 crore. We have given Rs. 50 lakhs to Bihar...

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: This is totally inadequate. They have allotted Rs. 50 lakhs when they themselves have made a programme of Rs. 60 crores. May I

request your intervention at least to tell the hon. Minister to treat it more seriously because people are dying of black fever.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: We have got financial constraints and in the Eighth Plan we will definitely include something more for that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I think, it is a shame and some strictures must be passed.

FCI Godowns

*290. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Corporation of India godowns in the country, State-wise; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct more godowns, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.