

Treatment of Oral Cancer

***231. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV † :**
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Daily Patriot dated 8 February 1988, wherein it has been stated that Oral Cancer patients are highest in India;

(b) if so, the estimated number of oral cancer patients in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for their proper treatment and free distribution of required medicines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to estimates based on Population based cancer registries, the I.C.M.R. has estimated that 40,300 new cases of oral cancer occur every year.

(c) The principal methods of treatment for oral cancer are radiotherapy, surgery and chemotherapy. Facilities for surgery are available in all major hospitals. Facilities for radiation therapy are available in 91 institutions in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my main question was regarding the steps which have been taken for the free distribution of required medicines. In her reply the hon. Minister has informed us about the different types of treatments available in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government will provide necessary information to the patients about this disease—as it is a serious disease—and also about the specific schemes and programmes to check it through newspapers and television media so that the disease does not spread further.

[English]

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Sir, regarding educating the people, the Govern-

ment has taken a number of steps such as mobile units, television, radio, printing materials, exhibition, etc. The Government is also involving medical colleges in health education and voluntary organisations. The Ministry is also arranging the workshops and seminars about the cancer all over the country.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Here the ICMR has given the figures. I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sethna Committee has recommended that we must have rural cancer detection centres and also the treatment centres be opened. In Maharashtra, the first Tata Rural Cancer Detection Centre was started and they are visiting different villages. We have found that in 20 camps, 200 cases of cancer were detected in the rural areas. May I know whether the Ministry of Health will give at least the transport charges to these people or not, I mean the Tata Cancer Detection Centre so that they could visit the villages and the rest can be done by the villagers.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : It is a good suggestion.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA) : It is a good suggestion but not practicable.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : That is the first Rural Centre and the Minister says that it is not practicable.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : May I know from the Health Minister as to whether it is brought to his notice that the Pan Paraag which has of late assumed new dimensions in its use, is supposed to cause oral cancer and that there are medical findings to that effect? Pan Paraag is receiving wide advertisement in mass media like TV and radio and is freely distributed in flights. What does the Minister propose to do in this regard ?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Pan Paraag is not the subject of my Ministry. I need a separate question on it. Personally, I can say that I am deadly against Pan Paraag or any tobacco product for that matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is there any medical finding that Pan Paraag can lead to oral cancer ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : If there is a finding, then you must do something about it. How can you disclaim the responsibility for it ?

MR. SPEAKER : Is it only one Pan Paraag or there several other names also ?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I would like to tell the hon. Member that uptill now nobody has proved that Pan Paraag is injurious to health. I cannot say anything on that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There is a medical finding.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There is a medical finding. Does the Government agree to it or not ?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : There is a medical finding as regards tobacco but as regards Pan Paraag, as the hon. Member is saying, we will definitely look into it it is injurious for health and whether it takes people to cancer or not

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are you aware of the medical findings or not ?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : I am fully aware of the medical findings but there is no such medical finding as yet to be seen by us and if it is there, then we will get it surveyed again.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it true that throats are under examination ?

SHRI MOTI TAL VORA : I cannot say that it is under examination but there is no medical report so far.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may get Prof. Dandavate examined positively because he strains his throat most.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is not due to Pan Parag. That is due to zero hour.

[Translation]

Mr. SPEAKER : Then, I will have to do away with the zero hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you allow so much liberty to Prof. Dandavate, he may suffer from throat cancer and we may suffer from ear cancer.

MR. SPEAKER : Two birds would be killed with one stone.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Should we not send you to the upper House ?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : From Lok Sabha to *parlok* Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I cannot. I shall not allow that to be done.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : There is a great increase in the number of oral cancer cases in our country. If *pan parag* is not one of the causes for oral cancer, what are the causes for increasing the number of oral cancer ? Is *pan parag* one of the causes for oral cancer ? Of course, the cause of cancer is not known yet there are certain pre-disposing causes which lead to cancer and *pan parag* is one of them. Fortunately, the Minister is incharge of both the Departments; one is Health and Family Welfare and the other is Civil Aviation. You supply *pan parag* in spite of the fact that its use is most controversial. It is one of the causes for cancer. What steps do the Government propose to take to stop the use of *pan parag* and to educate the people in this respect ?

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : No *Pan Parag* no marriages.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I accept it.

MR. SPEAKER : Has Shri Ghafoor given some prescription ?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I accept it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Actually, he gives prescription only to the unmarried.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Documentary evidences are available from various studies done in India that tobacco and betel nut chewing are really responsible for high incidence. The other factors such as nutritional dental care, very very heavy smoking drinking and local oral hygiene are also known as very high risk factors.

Flying Bus Service between Indira Gandhi International Airport and New Delhi Railway Station

*232. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there was any scheme for flying bus service between Indira Gandhi International Airport and New Delhi Railway Station ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the scheme; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) and (b). The International Airport Authority of India had a scheme for operating a "Flying Bus Service" between Indira Gandhi International Airport and New Delhi Railway Station. The service was to be operated by a private operator at specified rates.

(c) and (d). The private operator has been granted five contract carriage permits by Delhi Administration.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what is this flying bus service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : This name was given by the Civil Aviation Ministry to this project.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a name only.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I had asked a specific question as to what are the reasons for the delay in operating this service. The Minister has, however, not given a proper reply. When was this scheme chalked out and why was there so much delay in operating it ? When is it going to operate now and what are the facilities that you are going to provide by this service to the passengers. ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The same question was asked by Dr. Shailesh on 29th February as an unstarred question to the Civil Aviation Ministry where they had said that this was pending with the Delhi Administration. At the moment stage carriage permits were allowed only to DTC in order to have a transport discipline in Delhi. In this particular case we gave a special concession but they wanted to pick up their passengers from different points to the Airport. This is a very genuine case. After a great deal of consideration we have given a special permission to have the permits. It should be implemented immediately.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Whether the Government is seriously thinking of introducing such a scheme at other international airports also or is it confined only to the Indira Gandhi Airport ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, basically this question relates to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and they should be able to reply. As this question has been marked to us, we have given the information to the House otherwise the Delhi Administration