

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 12, 1988/Vaisakha 22,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Reorientation of Medical Education (Rome) Scheme

*1062. SHRI M.V. CHAN-
DRASEKHARA MUR-
THY†:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT:

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

(a) whether the Reorientation of Medi-

cal Education (ROME) Scheme launched by
Union Government in 1977 has been imple-
mented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether Union Government have
since decided to transfer the scheme to the
States' plan from the next Five Year Plan;
and

(d) whether the views of the State
Governments have been considered in this
regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF
CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The scheme has been implemented
in consultation with the State Governments
and modifications have been carried out
from time to time. The views of the State
Governments will be considered before any
final decision is taken to transfer the Scheme
to the State Plans.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY: Re-orientation of medical educa-
tion scheme was launched by the Union
Government long back in 1977. The main
objective of this scheme was to expose the

medical students and the medical facilities to the rural areas and to make the scheme rural-oriented. In view of this, I want to know whether the Government has strictly implemented this scheme? If so, what results have been achieved?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Government has strictly implemented this scheme and all the 106 medical colleges of the country have been provided with sums. Earlier Rs. 16 lakhs had been provided and in the Seventh Five Year Plan period we have made an allocation of Rs. 200 lakhs. This amount is being given to some States.

SHRI K.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Because of the mushroom growth of the medical colleges throughout the country the quality of medical education has come down. The medical education has also been commercialised. In view of this, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any scheme to check the growth of the medical colleges and to improve the quality of the medical education.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: The Government has got a scheme to check the mushroom growth of private medical colleges and we have not recognised them. Only some States have given recognition to these medical colleges.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, he has not answered to the latter part of my question. Whether the Government has any scheme to improve the quality of the medical education.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Government has got the scheme to improve the medical colleges. In this connection, the hon. Member knows it fully well... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is always room for improvement. It is an ongoing project.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Reorientation of Medical Education Scheme was launched in 1977 and was made rural oriented to expose its benefits specifically to rural areas. It is now 1988 and according to my information, Government did not sanction any grant to it in 1985-86 because basic formalities were not completed. The fact is that the doctors are not willing to start their medical practice in rural areas. They just want to sit in air-conditioned rooms. These people have put the whole scheme in such a situation where it appears that the Rome is burning and Nero is fiddling. Such is the case with the doctors. They do not want to go to the villages. They want to sit in air-conditioned rooms. I want to know the amount of grant released during 1985-86 for this scheme. The Government should provide adequate assistance for this scheme. The grant of Rs. 2 crores for the entire country is not adequate for the purpose. This is a good scheme meant for rural areas and I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what extent the scheme has been implemented in the last eleven years. In fact, it has been misused and has remained neglected. I would like to suggest that an Enquiry Committee should be set up to conduct the enquiry and the persons found guilty of negligence should be punished and the scheme should continue. There is no question to transfer it to the state Governments or to somebody else. What are your views in this regard?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme was introduced in 1977 and I have stated the amount of fund allocated to the Medical centres after 1977. As regards objectives, Shri Purohit very well knows that three such medical Health Centres should be attached to a medical college where the students of medical college may go and apprise themselves with the health conditions of people in rural areas and make

themselves adapt to the conditions prevailing in the rural areas. The Central Government has provided funds from time to time for this purpose and has also instructed the State Governments to take action in this regard. There was a conference held in 1985 and the scheme was evaluated there and on the basis of discussions held State Governments are being asked again to utilise fully the facilities provided for the purpose and ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach to the villages. They have also been asked to arrange the visits of medical students to the rural areas.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: What is the amount of grant released during 1985-86?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: A sum of Rs. 38 lakhs 90 thousand was released during 1985-86. Rs. 20 lakhs were given to Gujarat. We have released the amount of assistance to other States also and these efforts will continue in future.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister categorically because the main thrust of the ROME scheme is on medical reorientation programme and not for the development of the rural areas. That is the second feature. The first and foremost is the medical reorientation programme, which is not new. It is already envisaged in the Bhor Committee's report.

You were replying that three PHCs had been adopted for each of the 110 medical colleges and concurrence has been given by the IMC. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister, how many times he has taken a review of the medical reorientation programme. The basic thrust of the question is that the professors of the Community Medi-

cine Department have adopted this programme and they are pin-pointing the students, the trainees and the internees for the basic education to be imparted for the communicable diseases which are existing, not for syndrome or traid or NMR or more bigger things which are developing in the world. If the Department has taken a review in 1981-82 and 1985-86 and was widely acclaimed, what are the lacunae? Was there any problem in the accommodation of the students or is it because of the non-practising allowance not paid throughout the country, or the professors are not going to the primary health centres and so on and so forth?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: This Reorientation of Medical Education Scheme is quite different. Regarding how we are to improve the medical education and what is the involvement of the professors with the students and whether the students have got any problems and all that, I will read out the total scheme:

- i) Involvement of medical colleges in the community health programme and in direct delivery of health care services to the rural population.
- ii) Exposing the students and faculties of medical colleges to the rural environment for rural orientation.
- iii) Updating the quality of health services in the rural and peripheral areas and provision of expertise and assistance and specialised services as may be needed in the areas.
- iv) Phased transfer of total and comprehensive health care (preventive, promotive and curative) of community development blocks and gradually of the

whole district to the medical college situated in the areas.

So, these are the objective of the Re-orientation of Medical Education Scheme.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: You have done one review in 1985-86.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The scheme was again reviewed in 1985 and the workshop was held here. In this workshop a number of points arose. The entire faculty of the medical colleges were not involved but more emphasis was given. A number of suggestions were given in 1985 and we have got the record.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Even after 40 years of independence, we are just following the medical education from the old British system of education. Actually, instead of reorientation medical education. I would like to put one straight question to the hon. Minister through you, Sir, as to whether in order to improve and to bring this medical education to the rural orientation, he is going to establish the medical universities in the country because there are some in other States which they are doing and if the Government of India takes this up on a war-footing, at least, there will be a change and we can have our own medical education system.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The suggestion is very good but the implementation is difficult.

Separate Coaches for Non-smoking Passengers and ban on Sale of Smoking items etc.

*1063. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised

plans for earmarking compartment/coaches for non-smoking passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are also considering to ban sale of cigarettes, bidis, pan and pan-massala at all the railway stations or on some selected railway stations?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railway Administrations to earmark one second class 3-tier coach as non-smoking on 3 pairs of long distance trains as an experimental measure.

(c) There is no proposal at present to ban sale of cigarettes etc. However, a decision has been taken to stop sale of pan at railway stations gradually.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Instructions are stated to have been issued to the zonal Railways. May I know about the Railway zones where this plan is proposed to be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, instructions have been issued and three trains have been identified where the plan is proposed to be taken up. These trains are 2 down Kalka Mail between Delhi and Howrah, 25up-26 down between New Delhi and Bombay Central, 15up-16 down GT Express between New Delhi and Madras. As these trains come under Computer Reservation System, change in softwares would be needed. I have talked to software consultants. I think it will take two months or so to bring out this change till then it will have to be postponed. Besides, a second class 3 tier