

improving relations with USA and seek other sources for the nuclear fuel for the Tarapore plant?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Our dialogue with the Government of USA for overcoming any problems in nuclear cooperation between the two countries is continuing. It is our hope that the relations between the two countries have been strengthened sufficiently to withstand any differences that may arise between two democratic countries on specific issues. It is the expectation that supply of fuel for Tarapore will continue.

**Name of the State having maximum number of Lepers**

1333. DR. RAMJI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the State in the country having maximum number of lepers and their number in each district of Bihar;

(b) whether, keeping in view the number of lepers in Bhagalpur district, Government propose to undertake any special programme;

(c) if so, when and if not, whether Government will consider giving aid to institutions of Bhagalpur district in serving lepers; and

(d) whether Government have received any application from Bhagalpur Leprosy Hospital requesting for grants?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV):** (a) Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of estimated leprosy cases, namely, 7.32 lakhs. A statement indicating the estimated number of leprosy cases in the districts of Bihar, is enclosed.

(b) The Government have already done so.

(c) The following units and Centre under the National Leprosy Control Programme have already been established in Bhagalpur district with the assistance of the Central Government:

1. Leprosy Control Units 4 (each covering a population of about 4 lakhs)
2. Survey, Education Treatment Centres 15 (each covering a population of about 25,000)
3. Urban Leprosy Centre 1

Besides, two voluntary organisations, namely, Bhagalpur Leprosy Home and Hospital with 200 beds and New Leprosy Asylum with 51 beds are also functioning in Bhagalpur district.

(d) Not yet.

**Statement**

District-wise estimated number of leprosy patients in Bihar as estimated in 1972 on 1971 census population

Name of District	Population Estimated	
	(1971 Census) in lakhs	number of leprosy patients
1	2	3
1. Patna . . . . .	35.57	12,800
2. Gaya . . . . .	44.57	40,200

	1	2	3
3. Shahbad . . . . .		39'39	6,100
4. Saran . . . . .		42'79	39,000
5. Champaran . . . . .		35'43	8,400
6. Muzaffarpur . . . . .		48'41	45,000
7. Darbhanga . . . . .		52'34	18,500
8. Monghyr . . . . .		38'93	31,000
9. Bhagalpur . . . . .		20'91	18,700
10. Saharsa . . . . .		23'50	5,600
11. Purnea . . . . .		39'42	9,200
12. Santhal Parganas . . . . .		31'87	60,000 60,000
13. Palamau . . . . .		15'04	3,600
14. Hazaribagh . . . . .		30'20	13,000
15. Ranchi . . . . .		26'11	11,200
16. Dhanbad . . . . .		14'66	8,000
17. Singhbhum . . . . .		24'38	8,900
<b>BIHAR . . . . .</b>		<b>563.53</b>	<b>3,39,200</b>

**Combining Jangipur and Raghunathgunge, West Bengal areas into a single Local Area**

1334. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 605 on the 17th November, 1977 regarding difference in call charges in Raghunathgunge telephone exchange in West Bengal and state:

(a) whether the question of combining the two exchange areas of Jangipur and Raghunathgunge into a single local area has been reexamined; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raghunathgunge and Jangipur are separated by River Bhagirathi, a natural obstacle and in the absence of a bridge in between, it is not feasible to combine the local areas of these telephone exchanges.

**P. F. Outstanding against Punalur Paper Mills Ltd., Quilon, Kerala**

1335. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether large amount of provident fund contribution of the employees and workers of Punalur Paper