

- outbreak containment efforts are being intensified.
- (ii) More effective and less traumatic method of vaccination employing bifurcated needles has been introduced.
- (iii) Health Education and Publicity measures have been intensified to enhance voluntary acceptability of vaccination.
- (iv) 100% Central assistance is being given to all the States and Union Territories including Rajasthan and Gujarat for the additional staff and contingencies for the implementation of National Smallpox Eradication Programme.
- (v) Freeze Dried smallpox vaccine is supplied free to the States and Union Territories.

Persons Suffering from Leprosy

4561. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI
THANKAPPAN :
SHRI JADEJA :

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

- (a) the latest statistics relating to the number of persons suffering from leprosy in each State ;
- (b) the total number of leprosy beds in Government owned and Government financed hospitals and clinics as in 1960-61 and 1970-71 ;
- (c) the factors responsible for the increase in the number of persons suffering from leprosy ; and
- (d) the measures Government proposed to control over this disease ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) There are about 25 lakhs (2.5 million) leprosy patients in the country. The Statewise break up of these cases is as under :

State	Estimated number of cases (in lakhs)
1. Tamil Nadu	6.4
2. Andhra Pradesh	5.2

3. Bihar	2.8
4. Maharashtra	2.2
5. Mysore	1.4
6. Orissa	1.9
7. Uttar Pradesh	1.4
8. West Bengal	2.4
9. Rest of India	1.3
Total :	25.0

(b) About 28,000 beds were available in 221 In-patient Institutions in 1960-61. The need to increase the beds was not felt due to effective Domiciliary—Ambulatory methodology of treatment.

(c) The Survey of the whole population in the endemic areas has not been accomplished yet and 2.5 million estimated leprosy cases have not been recorded and put on treatment so far. After this is accomplished the second survey will give us an idea about the increase or decrease of the disease in India as the figures of the first survey will form our Baseline data.

(d) The National Leprosy Control Programme which was launched in 1955 by the Government of India in collaboration with the States is being vigorously followed. This programme has been made a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 1.4.1969 and is in operation in 20 States/Union Territories. There are a total of 207 Leprosy Control Units and 1298 Survey Education and Treatment Centres.

Besides the above, grand-in-aid is also being given to 31 voluntary organisations to do leprosy control work. 5 Control Projects have also been got established by international organisations. So far we have covered a population of 82 million and have recorded 9,19,142 cases.

Discovery of new Contraceptive

4562. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new contraceptive has been discovered in Central Drug Laboratory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADH-YAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Two contraceptive have recently been developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. The details are as under :—

(1) Centchromane (67/20) : This is a new oral non-storpidal antifertility agent. It is in the form of a pill to be taken in a single dose by the woman within four days of sexual intercourse. The compound is reported to have given immediately 100% prevention of conception in rats, dogs and monkeys. The antifertility effect is reversible as shown on rats. Studies on monkeys and rats have shown the drug to be non-toxic. The Pharmacology of the drug on human beings is under study at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

(2) *Centrasquare* : This is a contraceptive film to be used locally in the vagina. The active ingredient is urea which is found to be spermicidal and without any local adverse effects. The clinical trials with this method have just started in a few selected Family Welfare Planning Centres at Lucknow and in Delhi.

Loss to O. N. G. C. in drilling deal with an Italian firm

4563. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission have suffered a loss of Rs. 5 crores in the drilling deal with Italian firm since the contract was awarded to that firm ;

(b) whether no global tenders were called for to award the contract at that time ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action against the person responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (d). In the year 1961 a large credit was made available by ENI of Italy, an organisation owned by the Government of Italy, to the Government of India to develop Indo-Italian co-operation in the petroleum sector. Out of this credit,

certain amounts had been allocated for contract drilling. Only the companies of the ENI group were eligible for the award of contracts under this credit. As SNAM was the only drilling company in the ENI group, it was the only company eligible for the award of the drilling contract. The necessity for calling global tenders did not arise.

2. In December 1962 and in May 1963, ONGC concluded two contracts for drilling very deep wells in Bihar and U. P. under the December 1962 contract and in the Punjab under the May 1963 contract. Under these contracts drilling was carried out during the period October 1953-May, 1965 in Bihar and UP and during October 1964 and September 1966 in the Punjab. Under the first contract two wells were drilled, one at Raxaul in Bihar and one at Mohand in UP. Under the 1963 contract, two wells were drilled at Janauri and Bahi. All the wells proved dry. The invoices for work and services totalled \$ 24,19,053 93 plus Rs. 68, 17,476 00 for drilling under the first contract (Bihar/UP) and \$ 25,01,886 09 plus Rs. 66, 34,059.89 for drilling in the Punjab.

3. On perusal of a report in one of the newspapers, the CVC and CVI had taken cognisance of the case. On receipt of the factual report from Oil Natural Gas Commission according to information with Government, they did not pursue the case further. The question of Govt. taking further action did not arise.

Allotment of land to Military personnel on the Meerut-Mewana Road (U. P.)

4564. **SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether land was allotted to military-personnel by his Ministry under colonisation Scheme on the Meerut-Mewana Road, District Merrut (Uttar Pradesh) ;

(b) if so, the number of military personnel who were allotted land there ;

(c) whether Government have given possession to all the allottees ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.