

1513 hours

Title: Motion for consideration of the Vaccination (Repeal) Bill, 2001 (Bill passed.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item No. 23. Dr. C.P. Thakur, the Minister of Health.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Madam, Chairperson, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Vaccination Act, 1880, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration. "

This is a small Act which was only made in regard to small pox vaccination. That disease has been eradicated now and, therefore, the Government has come forward with this repeal Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Vaccination Act, 1880, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration. "

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Respected Madam, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that of the hon. Health Minister to certain points.

This enactment is 121 years old. It has 23 sections. It was enacted at a time when the people were not aware of the health facilities available to mankind by means of scientific innovation. By following the concepts of evil spirits and divine punishments, people used to believe that small pox could be cured only by using *Neem* or other traditional medicines.

But at that time, the British Empire had created a penal provision for the people that if they would not come forward to have vaccination or inoculation, then they would be punished for three months or six months. This type of penal provision was needed at that time. Subsequently, it was carried on for certain municipalities and it was taken throughout India.

I could recollect myself when I tried for admission in the law college at Madras in 1968. I prepared very much for general knowledge and other things to appear before the Committee for selection. When I attended the Committee, they simply asked me, "Have you got the vaccination?" I replied, "yes." Immediately, I got admission in that law college. That was the situation at that time. People were not worried whether they were vaccinated or not. They did not worry about that type of calamity. That was the situation even in 1968.

It is good that now, we are very much in a position to declare ourselves that we have totally eradicated small-pox. But at the same time, the divine will come in some other way. It has come now by way of AIDS and other things. But at the same time, now the marketing method is different and the polio vaccination has been very successful through Government machinery, making it a perfect one, reaching all the ordinary people of the poor category.

Now, I would just like to attract the attention of the hon. Minister on one aspect. People below poverty line are not properly cared by the State Governments. There are Primary Health Centres established by the Union fund, which subsequently, are handled by the concerned State Governments. Same is the case about the Government dispensaries. I know that plenty of Government dispensaries are there without medical officers. I know that even the *taluk* and district headquarters hospitals are not properly equipped. They do not have experts. If they have got experts, they do not have amenities. They have got the surgeons but they do not have operation theatres. Similarly, if they have got the medical people, they do not have medicines. If they have got people to be treated as patients, they do not have nurses. So, all these things are happening. If 100 beds are available, 1000 people are waiting in the queue for the same. They are just lying like animals in the streets, on the corridors of the hospitals. Now, this situation cannot go on for ever. We need to pay certain attention in this regard. Now, we have moved to the level of global economy and other things.

I would like to suggest that there should be a medical insurance scheme even for the people who are living below poverty line and who need immediate attention.

Sir, within a short period of one and a half years, as a Member of Parliament, I have got the funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the tune of Rs. 50 lakh. In my constituency alone, so many heart patients are there. They have to pay about Rs. 1.5 lakh per patient. But the amount given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is only Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000. Similarly, the amount from the Chief Minister's Fund is also only Rs. 20,000. The rest of the amount, the patients have to bear on their own, and for arranging the money, they have to sell away all their small properties. So, they keep on suffering losses.

Therefore, my suggestion is that the Government should have an intensive attitude. Just as this act at that time gave an inspiration to the Government, we have to protect the people. Even though we had colonial Governments,

we had to protect the people. Now, we are a democratic country. Therefore, more responsibility lies on the Governments now. The Government may not be having so much of money but here is the Medical Insurance Scheme which could help a lot. General insurance is now given to the private sector. Therefore, there should be participation by the Central Government, the State Governments and the people so that all the medical care can be provided to the poor people who are living in the rural areas and also in the urban areas.

Sir, the NGOs are cared by Government funds, and the private sector is caring its own employees and their families. But the poor people are not having any care from anybody. For them, for their causes, I request that the inspiration with which this enactment has been made, should be carried on by our Government also so that these people are cared at the appropriate time.

There are new varieties of diseases which are coming up. People do not know about them. So, there should be some awareness among the people. Many NGOs are given funds for making awareness programmes. They should be expanded.

More care should be taken to see that they really reach the poor who need them the most. The Health Ministry in this regard should make a comprehensive plan so that poor people are looked after well.

प्रो. रासा सिंह रावत (अजमेर) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सरकार के द्वारा प्रस्तुत टीका निरसन विधेयक, 2001 का हार्दिक और पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं केवल सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा कि आज हम इस बिल को रिपील कर रहे हैं लेकिन आज से 120 वाँ पहले जब यह बिल बना था, पारित हुआ था तब यह कितना उपयोगी था और इसने देश का कितना उपकार किया। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज इस अवसर पर जब इस बिल को हम रिपील कर रहे हैं तो इस बिल के माध्यम से हुए उस उपकार को हमें स्मरण करना चाहिए क्योंकि जब यह बिल बना था तो उस समय चेचक एक बहुत ही भयानक संक्रामक रोग माना जाता था और जब चेचक की बीमारी फैलती थी तो हजारों लोग मौत के मुँह में चले जाते थे। हजारों बच्चे अकस्मात मौत के ग्रास बन जाते थे और उनके चेहरे खराब हो जाते थे और इस रोग को देवी का प्रकोप माना जाता था, इसे किसी भूत-प्रेत का प्रभाव माना जाता था और शीतला माता की कल्पना अभी तक समाज के अंदर प्रचलित है। हमें इस अंध-विश्वास को रोकना है क्योंकि चेचक को देवी का प्रकोप माना जाता था। जिस समय यह कानून बना तो वैक्सीनेशन बिल पारित हुआ था। इस बिल के माध्यम से restriction on movement of non-vaccinated persons and there was also a punishment for that. उनके लिए सजा वगैरह का प्रावधान था जिनको टीका नहीं लगा हुआ था तो वे लोग एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान को नहीं जा सकते थे। इस टीके के परिणामस्वरूप वास्तव में समाज में जागृति पैदा हुई। लोग टीका लगवाने लगे। मुझे याद है कि बचपन में जब गाँवों में शील सप्तमी का दिन आता था, सप्तमी जी उसको कहते हैं तो शीतला देवी जी की मूर्ति के सामने छोटे-छोटे बच्चों को लिटाकर उन्हें तीन बार दुलटी देते थे कि अब इनको चेचक की बीमारी नहीं होगी और चेचक का टीका लगाने वाले आते थे तो बच्चों को छिपा दिया जाता था लेकिन इस बिल की बदौलत जो समाज के अंदर चेतना पैदा हुई, कार्यकर्ताओं और डाक्टरों के माध्यम से या प्राइमरी हेल्थ सेंटर के माध्यम से या जो भी उपचार के केन्द्रों के माध्यम से समाज के अंदर चेतना पैदा हुई। आज डब्ल्यूएचओ ने 1977 के अंदर भारत को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चेचक उन्मूलन निर्धारण आयोग द्वारा चेचक मुक्त देश घोषित किया था। सौ वाँ की मेहनत के बाद यह स्थिति पैदा हुई। 1980 में सारी दुनिया के अंदर डब्ल्यूएचओ ने भारत को चेचक से रहित देश घोषित किया है। अब प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग जो बना है, उसने सुझाव दिया कि अब जब यह बीमारी ही नहीं रही तो इस कानून की क्या आवश्यकता है। इसलिए इस कानून को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा आज यह विधेयक लाया जा रहा है। मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ लेकिन मैं एक बात कहना चाहूँगा कि इस टीके की उपयोगिता अभी भी है। गाँवों के अंदर बड़ी चेचक खत्म हो गई लेकिन ज्यों ही सर्दी का मौसम आता है, गाँवों में खसरा या छोटी चेचक और कभी-कभी वैसी ही चेचक देखने को मिलती है और जब लोग मरीज को डाक्टरों के पास ले जाते हैं तो वे कहते हैं कि यह चेचक नहीं है, यह खसरा है, यह छोटी चेचक है, छोटे दाने हैं। इस बारे में मैं आपके माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा कि छोटी चेचक या खसरे से भी कई लोग काल कलवित हो जाते हैं, इसलिए इस तरफ ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है जिससे भविष्य में यह रोग न पनपे। इसी तरह से जो मलेरिया दूर हो गया था लेकिन फिर कौन से मच्छर पैदा हो गये कि मलेरिया वापस आ गया।

वैक्सीनेशन को छः बीमारियों के अंदर प्रीवेंटिव मैजर्स माना गया है। वैक्सीनेशन अपने आप में अलग-अलग बीमारियों के लिए उपयोगी है, जैसे पोलियो उन्मूलन अभियान देश के अंदर चलाया गया और उसमें भारी सफलता प्राप्त हुई लेकिन मुझे कहते हुए संकोच भी हो रहा है कि एक सर्वेक्षण किया गया था और 'हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स' की रिपोर्ट आई थी कि पल्स पोलियो प्रोग्राम के अंदर 33 लाख बच्चों को पोलियो वैक्सीन दिया गया था लेकिन वह इनअफैक्टिव था।

पूना की होपकिन्स इन्स्टीट्यूट ने उसकी जांच की थी। उस जांच में टीके के परीक्षण के बाद पाया गया कि वह टीका, जो 35 लाख बच्चों को लगा था, प्रभावी नहीं था। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को इस बारे में सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए, ताकि पोलियो जैसी भयावह बीमारी से सम्पूर्ण रूप से विजय पा सकें।

इसके साथ एन्टी-रैबीज टीके का भी कहीं-कहीं पर प्रभाव नहीं देखा गया है। इस समस्या की ओर भी मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, हमारे प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र पर जिन छः बीमारियों के उन्मूलन टीके के माध्यम से किए जा सकते हैं या प्रारम्भ में जिस प्रकार बीसीजी या पोलियो उन्मूलन या अन्य टीके बच्चों को लगाए जाते हैं, जिससे भविष्य में वे बीमारियाँ न हों, इसके टीके भी प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों पर उपलब्ध होने चाहिए। इसके साथ ही मैं सरकार का ध्यान जो स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता नियुक्त किए जाते हैं, उनकी ओर भी दिलाना चाहता हूँ, ताकि इन बीमारियों का उन्मूलन जड़ से हो सके।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का पुरजोर शब्दों में समर्थन करता हूँ, लेकिन टीके की उपयोगिता अन्य बीमारियों के अन्दर बरकरार है, इसलिए इस ओर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस बिल पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत करने के लिए आपने समय दिया, इसके लिए आपको धन्यावाद।

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Madam, I totally agree with some of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members. He raised one thing about improving the governance at the primary health centre level. That is very much needed. The Central Government is also thinking as to how the primary health centres can be made functional. With the help of State Government, we are planning that some medicine should be available at the primary health centre. The doctors and the para-medical staff should be available at the primary health centre. If medicines, doctors, and para-medical staff are available, then, I think, the primary health centres will be functional. Secondly, regarding

insurance, a thinking is going on that the general insurance for medical services should be taken up. So, this is also under consideration.

As regards vaccination, this is under our programme. But certainly the programme is not hundred per cent effective. We are always insisting with the State Governments that all these vaccinations should be available and children should be vaccinated against eruption of measles which the hon. Member has referred to. So, the Government is very sensitive about all these matters which have been raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Vaccination Act, 1880, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."
"

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.
