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Title: Regarding steps taken to check Swine Flu in the country.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an issue regarding the deadly disease, swine flu, in the 'Zero Hour'.

The swine flu has spread its wings across India, particularly in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Madam, give me two minutes to express my views because I myself suffered from swine flu and I was treated in Visakhapatnam. There are certain problems regarding this swine flu.

As we all know, swine flu is a respiratory disease caused by the influenza virus, which affects the respiratory system of the human body. The symptoms are very normal. The patient gets headache, cough, and fever. They are very normal symptoms for which generally people do not go to hospitals. They take some paracetamol and just pass time. Awareness should be created through media publicity about the symptoms of swine flu. This disease spreads particularly when the climate is cold and during winter season. We have always been taking some temporary remedial measures instead of finding some permanent solution to this.

Many a time what is happening is that diagnosis itself takes three days. Diagnostic centres are not established across the country. Because of that the treatment starts late.

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister has replied very exhaustively on this issue.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Even today diagnostic centres are not available. By the time it is diagnosed, it becomes very chronic.

The second issue is regarding medicines. Medicines are not available across the country.

The virus spreads very fast. First 48 hours are very crucial. People are facing a lot of problems in places like Araku, and also in many areas in Rajasthan, and Gujarat. By the time they realise that they are suffering from swine flu, it becomes too late. It has claimed the lives of almost 1,000 people.

One more important issue that I wish to bring to the notice of the Government, through you, is that there is only one medicine which is available for swine flu. If they are infected once again they do not have any medicine to treat the patients and that results in death. So, it is a very serious issue that needs to be considered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. I would like to bring to the notice of the House, through you, that remedial measures need to be taken in this regard. Thank you so much.