

I request the members that they have to cooperate now because the real impact of drought is being experienced only this year. Keeping in mind the level of stock and the demands from all the States, we have to meet the minimum demands of all. But I can assure you that we have got enough stocks. Our position is quite comfortable and we can meet the requirements of public distribution system, poverty alleviation programme and other programmes that the Government of India have started. But the implementation part is with the State Governments. If they implement these programmes efficiently, then I think you may not face the problem which you are experiencing now. I have been telling the State Governments that the public distribution system is a permanent feature of our food economy and that has to be strengthened and improved. It is for the State Governments to carry this work out and we are ready to render whatever help they require. We are already doing so.

Now, the scope of this amendment is very limited. But this gave an opportunity to members to discuss the functioning of the entire Food Corporation of India. As I said in the beginning, I will come to it. Some hon. members raised an objection and asked as to why this amendment is being brought. They wondered whether this amendment is necessary at all. Well, as you all know, the Food Corporation of India does not generate its own resources; the Food Corporation of India does not take decisions about the support price; and the Food Corporation of India does not take decisions about the issue price. All these decisions are taken by the Government of India.

16 00 hrs.

The total turn over, as I told you in the beginning in terms of foodgrains ranges between 15 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes and in terms of money, it is round about Rs. 11,000 crores.

So, the Food Corporation of India gets this money either from the Government in the shape of loan, in the shape of equity grant, or from the banking sector. This Amendment is simply an enabling provision that Food Corporation of India may raise funds by issuing bonds or debentures.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue tomorrow. Now, we shall take up discussion under Rule 193 regarding incidence of gastro-enteritis/Cholera in the Union Territory of Delhi. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

16 01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

INCIDENCE OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS/
CHOLERA IN UNION TERRITORY
OF DELHI

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel more than a little despondent, I should say, for having to raise this discussion in the House. Sir, in the past, whenever discussions were raised in this House on the basis of certain specific incidents involving heavy loss of lives, it may be a Railway accident or it may be some mass killing of people whether by terrorists or killing of Harijans in Bihar villages or whether it be a calamity like the Bhopal Gas disaster, in all such cases, the discussions which have taken place have been in the nature of post mortem, that is to say, the tragedy taking toll of human life was over. After that, because the conscience of the public was aroused, the matter was agitated in this House and discussions were held. But unfortunately why I am feeling despondent in this particular case of cholera epidemic in Delhi is that this cannot be in the nature of a post-mortem because this killer cholera is still on the rampage. It is not as though the danger of the affliction is over. Even now, when we are discussing this matter in the House, cholera deaths are continuing in the affected areas, i.e. the re-settlement colonies across the Yamuna.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*].

The hon. Ministers who are in-charge of the nation's health know very well the fact that the river Yamuna separates this affected area from the rest of the city. But

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

that is no comfort to anybody. It does not mean that the river acts as some kind of a barrier to the spread of this epidemic to other parts of the Capital city. The congested slums which exist in the eastern parts have got their parallels in other parts of the city also in western part, in the northern parts of the Capital and all these places. And the conditions there are no better than the conditions which have led to this outbreak of the epidemic in Eastern Delhi. But the point is that at the moment, after so much publicity, so much agitation, the fact that ultimately, the Prime Minister visited that area, that he clearly expressed his displeasure and the fact that the Lieutenant Governor—I am glad that he had the good sense, although belatedly—to resign and there is removal or transfer or suspension of a number of high officials is not bringing any relief. It cannot bring any comfort first of all to those who are dead already and it is not bringing any relief to those who are afflicted because the cholera deaths are continuing. Admissions of suspected cases to hospital are going on unabated. Just at the moment, in today's newspapers, obviously officially briefed reports have appeared that there is a drop in new cases. The number of fresh cases which are being admitted to hospitals is declining. This is apart from the fact that over 17,000 cases have already, up to now, been admitted to the hospitals.

Is there really a decline in the new cases? Today also, there are newspaper reports—I am relying on the Press reports; if they are wrong, you should contradict them. Eleven deaths took place yesterday also, bringing the total to 212 so far. But is it a fact that there is any decline in new cases, which can give us some ground for satisfaction? Again, I say it is the Press which is collecting figures daily and publishing them. According to 'Times of India', i.e. the source I am mentioning here, taking the three of the major hospitals—Guru Tegh Bahadur, Kalawati Saran and Safdarjung hospitals—the figures they have given show in respect of yesterday—yesterday means day before yesterday, because this report is one-day old—day before yesterday, the new cases which were reported from Guru Tegh Bahadur were

186; the next day, i.e. yesterday they had come down to 141. In Kalawati Saran, there were 170 two days ago, and yesterday the number had come down to 136. In the Safdarjung hospital, day before yesterday there were 24 cases, and one day later the number has risen to 135. If you total up, for these two days, the figures from these three major hospitals, you find that two days ago the new cases reported were 380, and one day later they have not declined but actually gone up to 382. So, there is no cause whatsoever for any kind of complacency, and no cause for any kind of satisfaction.

We know now, and everybody knows, what are the causes of cholera—viz., that the infection is carried by infected, contaminated water, lack of clean filtered potable water, the fact that there has been no clearance of garbage, no attempt to clean the sewers which are choked, and the fact that the handpumps have become the main source of potable water for people living in these slums. These handpumps have been sunk at a depth of ten feet only. When they are supposed to be sunk at a depth of 40 feet to 45 feet, they have been sunk at a depth of ten feet. I want to know who is responsible for it. It is a criminal thing. If the infection is not going to spread here, where is it going to spread?

So, what I want to say is that these suspensions, transfers etc. which have now taken place belatedly, or even the resignation of the Lt. Governor, these have nothing to do with the long tale of neglect, criminal neglect and callousness which led to this epidemic breaking out. These actions have been taken only subsequently, because it is said that they failed to keep to the deadline which has been set by the Prime Minister himself for removing the garbage—and all these are the measures which, he said, he had directed the Administration to carry out. Because they failed to do even that, some steps have then been taken. But nobody has really made an enquiry into the long months and years of callous neglect which has ultimately led to this state of affairs, and who is responsible for that, and how you are going to prevent this being repeated in so

many other slums of Delhi. It is not a thing which can be confined. The cholera germs cannot be kept insulated, and isolated only in one part of the city; certainly not by the type of measures which are being taken now.

Even in the western part of Delhi, there is a colony called Rohini—I am sure you know that; it is claimed to be one of the biggest colonies in Asia—where about 30,000 plots of land have been allotted by the DDA; and 20,000 multi-storeyed apartment flats have been constructed there.

But there is no water connection for the last two years with the result that all these residents have been forced to drink water drawn from handpumps. And there also, due to criminal collusion with contractors and such people, if these handpumps are going to be sunk to the depth of only 10 ft. or 12 ft. as was done in the trans-Yamuna area, then during the rain, anybody knows, a layman knows, that when there are heavy rains during this monsoon season, that water is bound to get contaminated and there is bound to be infection; and people have no other alternative source of potable water.

If the DDA can be active and so energetic in allotting and selling plots and apartments in these new colonies, should they not show a little more sense of public responsibility in also seeing that proper supply of potable water is ensured for the residents of these colonies? Is that not their concern? Well, I do not know whether it is their concern or not, because we have been treated to a most unseemly public quarrel or wrangling match, I should say, between the DDA and the DMC. These two public bodies are openly accusing each other. It is all out in the Press. On the First of June, it seems the responsibility for the maintenance and development of these trans-Yamuna colonies was transferred from the DDA to the Municipal Corporation. But the Municipal Corporation says that yes, the responsibility only was transferred, neither the workers were transferred who are responsible for the cleaning and conservancy work—about

75,000 safai karamcharis were not transferred—nor fund was transferred nor equipment was transferred. Only responsibility was transferred. I do not know whether it is true or not; but if it is true, then the Municipal Corporation and the Commissioner have to reply to this question also that why did they agree to take this responsibility without the conservancy workers and without money, fund and without equipment? How did you expect to do this work? Nobody knows. But they are slanging each other publicly. And I think this is not a kind of situation in which people every day are being faced with the prospect of mortality, of death, for these public bodies situated in the Capital City of this country to carry on this kind of unseemly public accusation and counter accusation against each other. How is this matter going to be settled? This is why we have always been saying that for the Capital City to have so many agencies these multiple agencies in this Capital City faced now with the crisis, their only job is to blame each other. This system of multiple agencies should be brought to an end.

This DDA, this DMC, this NDMC, this Delhi Administration, nobody knows who is ultimately responsible and who is to be caught. They refuse to give a proper Statehood to Delhi with proper elected administration and government. All these people are there sitting in their offices, different multi-agencies. And now when they are faced with the crisis, the citizens of Delhi are now faced with Epidemic of this proportion and so many people are dying and so many people are suffering, then they blame each other; that is the only thing they have left to do. So, what I would like to say is that in this present case, there is a total lack of seriousness which has been shown. It is not that I am saying this. After all, the Prime Minister has said about it also. You may be thankful that once I would like to quote the Prime Minister on this question. When he went there to visit those areas—newspapers say—he was really angry by what he saw and he bitterly accused some authorities who was responsible for not having discharged their responsibility properly. So, have any steps been taken for that, for

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

finding out the culpability, the guilt of these people? This removal of the Municipal Commissioner or three or four high officials or the resignation of the Lieutenant Governor, these have come about subsequently, on the ground that they have failed even after the Prime Minister's directive, that they have failed to carry out his instructions. But what was happening all these months and years?

And, the whole trouble is that nobody bothers about people who live in slums which are nothing but refuse dumps. New Delhi is the show piece. New Delhi is the show piece of the country, with its beautiful wide roads and buildings and multi-storeyed apartments and five star hotels and big conference halls and all that. That is our show piece, particularly meant to impress all the foreign visitors who come to this city in large numbers every year. Who bothers about the millions of people who are living in conditions which are not fit for human habitation? Nobody bothers. Visitors to this city are not told. They do not know even that such a thing exists here. And because they are poor people and because they are living in conditions of congestions and overcrowding, are we not entitled to ask who allowed this kind of haphazard and unplanned development of these colonies to take place without providing the minimum amenities and minimum protections against health hazards? Who is responsible for it? I say, it is not only these authorities but it is also a number of politicians of Delhi, who have been encouraging people and promising people that "we will see that you can settle down here and live here, we will give you a place." We hear so much, it is trumpeted frequently about the Master Plan of Delhi. What has happened to that? Are these people not included in that Master Plan? Is the Master Plan only meant to allow the proprietors of Delhi Cloth Mills to close down their mills and retrench the workers? Is it only for them that here is some Master Plan? All this talk about green belt and Master Plan and the National Capital Region, and all these high-falutin, high-sounding things have they any bearing on the reality of day to day life? Have they no bearing on the exis-

tence of these millions of poor people? You may say that the people are coming into the city every year in larger and larger numbers. "what are we to do, how can we check this overcrowding?" This is not something peculiar to Delhi. There are many Members sitting here who come from other important cities of this country. We also do. We know that it is due to much deeper basic socio economic causes in our country that people from the rural areas are flocking more and more into the urban conglomerates in search of livelihood, in search of jobs. What are they to do?

Some people, of course, turn up their noses and say that they should be kept out. "Do not allow them to come into the city because they dirty the place, they do not know how to live like respectable people." So, in Bombay some people started at one time this kind of a campaign that they should be cleared out from the city. "Do not allow them to come in here." They are not beggars. They want work, they have come to work and all these people are working. Some work or other, they are all doing. But you want to bring them here, you want to settle them here, you want to create new slums and you want to create your constituencies there to get their votes, but you will not provide them with the minimum amenities for human life.

So, I want to say that this problem should not be looked at—I hope the hon. Minister who replies to this discussion will not look at it—from this narrow angle, of how many people have been affected in trans-Jamuna area, and how many have come to the hospitals, how many have been inoculated and all that. That also we want to know; what is the total estimate of the number of people now which require to be inoculated how many have actually been inoculated? Has the Government's attention been drawn to Press reports—not contradicted so far—that there is a serious shortage of anti-cholera vaccine? The retail chemists are complaining about it, the pharmacists. The distributors are complaining also, those who distribute this vaccine to the retailers. What is the actual situation?

Dr. B.N. Tandon, who is an authority of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, has given an official statement to the press saying that the anti-cholera vaccine, which is available in this country for all practical purposes, is worthless, no good and not effective and that we should approach World Health Organisation in order to try to get from them to the kind of effective anti-cholera vaccines which are in use now-a-days in countries wherever it is required.

What is going to be done about all this? Tomorrow this kind of thing may occur somewhere else. Already in the papers, they are reporting cases of cholera in the neighbouring areas of Delhi which are situated in Uttar Pradesh. Of course, when cholera breaks out, then for some time to come, the Government, the authorities—will go on strenuously deny it saying that it is not cholera, it is gastro-enteritis. The same thing happened in Delhi. But we know that there is a very thin dividing line between gastro-enteritis and cholera.

Madam, I do not know whether you have suffered from gastro-enteritis.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : No.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are a lucky person. You are a fortunate person. (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Do you want me to suffer from that ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not want you to suffer. But if you would have suffered, you would have had the experience. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Government has got diarrhoea. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Then, I wanted to raise another question. It seems that there was a scheme to supply piped Ganga water to some colonies including this Nand Nagari. For this purpose,

deposits were collected from many of the residents so that piped Ganga water could be supplied. What happened to that scheme? So far as I know, no water has been supplied, for which deposits were taken.

The most criminal part of it is, for some weeks and months before this epidemic broke up out, there have been public agitations in Delhi by various Organisations, by various parties and popular organisations, making representations to DDA and DMC and warning them about the danger signs which were already evident and asking them to take action in time. You cannot say that you were taken by surprise. I have got with me copies of various representations which were by public bodies. You see, here I have got a hand bill. This refers to a demonstration which took place on 4th February. The heading says :

[*Translation*]

“84 died earlier. Tell us, you corrupt leaders and officials, how many more are destined to die?”

[*English*]

This was the demonstration which took place in front of the Municipality stating that in these clusters of slums, the basic minimum civic amenities do not exist. We urge upon you to give to priority in this year of shelter to the homeless, provision for public hydrants for drinking water, construction of community latrines, sanitation, dispensaries and other amenities for health care. These are the minimum and immediate requirements of the neglected and oppressed sections and cannot wait for the final and basic programmes of re-housing and general environment. These two cannot be counter-posed.

This I am quoting from a memorandum which was submitted as long ago as in February by the Delhi Committee of my party. I know, many other parties and other organisations have also been raising it. Nobody bothers. They just turn the deaf ear to all this. That is why, I am saying this is a question of callousness and criminal neglect because they happens to be

[Shri] Inderjit Gupta]

poor people. That is all. There is no other reason for it. They are only good for votes at the time of elections and at other times whether they live or die or what conditions, what squalid conditions, sub human conditions they are living in, nobody bothers about it. This is not the matter which should become a party affair. It is a serious matter. There are hon. members elected from Delhi, sitting here. Mr. Bhagat is not the only person. Of course, Mr. Bhagat is connected with that particular... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are also there, you may speak afterwards. Just imagine if your Constituency is also affected.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Please give me some time too. You have come from Bengal. Please let me have some time to speak.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Tell this to him. Why are you telling me all this? What can I do if your name does not come in the ballot. You please give a motion.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: I have already given my name before you.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He is an old friend of mine. He has been a guest in my house in Calcutta. So, Sir, I do not want to take more time because there is no point in it. But the people are still dying. I want to know what steps the Government is taking now to see that this whole thing is brought really under effective control and according to the Press, these directions which were given by the Prime Minister for cleaning up the place, cleaning up operation, have been a big flop. Only some figures are being trotted out as to how many of these garbage disposal vans are being sent to that area every day, how many tankers carrying potable water have been sent there, how many people are put on the job of scavenging and cleaning the sewers. But what is the total output? What is the net result?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Nil.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know whether it is nil. But people are still dying. That is all I know and people are still dying and people are still crowding the hospitals and that means I will say that not only the public bodies in Delhi, it is the Government of India under whom the whole Delhi Administration works, the Ministry and also the people who represent these areas because I am sure they are very much concerned and worried now. At least they could have taken it up much earlier with the public bodies.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : It is true that we are concerned and we have taken every step that you have said. We have shown much more concern, much more effort, much more attention, much more work than you people take. Unfortunately, for one year, the things have deteriorated and we have not been able to do what we wanted to do. We will give you the details.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Bhagat, if you are really showing much more concern than me or any of us from this side, I would be very happy I don't make this a competition as to who is showing more concern or less concern.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I did not mean so.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is what you are saying. You are trying to show that you are working much more than anybody else.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I would suggest that something has happened. We are perhaps as much saddsetmen, saddest men over what has happenhd and in spite of our best effort, in spit of our warning, repeated warning, repeated letters, deputa- tion, everything...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should you interrupt and hockle me, I don't know?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I did not mean to heckle you. I was speaking with your consent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am sympathising with you also because that is your constituency. After what has happened, I am sure you are concerned and you should also exhibit your concern and humility. But what is the use of shouting and bullying me. It won't help the people, You have to do something there. You are a Minister also.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : If you have that feeling, I am sorry for that. I have no intention to shout at you or bullying you, not at all, not the least.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Anyway, Sir, I have raised specific questions regarding various aspects of how this epidemic took place and now what are the measures which are required in order to effectively check it and control and I would like to have specific answers to these questions, not a general thing saying, "Oh, we are now working from here, this and that." We want to have specific answers to all these questions. Something has happened and because it has happened in the capital city of Delhi, it can happen anywhere else also, I know. It can happen in any of our major cities.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : It has already happened. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes, but because it is Delhi, it attracts much more attention and it attracts international attention and it is going to affect your foreign tourists coming here also, please remember that. You see, westerners are very very sensitive to all these things about infectious diseases coming from these developing countries and cholera and such things are the things which horrify them. So, apart from the fact that it is a bad advertisement for the health conditions prevailing in the capital city of India, it will also drive away a large number of people, scare them away, whom you are very anxious to bring here for other purposes. So, please take it seriously; don't treat it as some casual, minor matter which is beyond human control or something. It is not, it is

very much the result of human neglect and human callousness. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the House will join in really pinning the responsibility on those agencies and people who are responsible for this state of affairs and they should be brought to book, some proper inquiry must be held into the whole affair. It is not enough to show that half a dozen officials have been transferred or suspended. Some inquiry has to be held, as the whole thing is going to affect the future of Delhi also, the future development, expansion of Delhi, the question of re-settlement in various colonies—we have got slums in Calcutta, much worse slums perhaps even than in Delhi, but for the last 10 or 12 or 25 years now, some slum *bastee* improvement schemes have been taken up by the Corporation. You please come to Calcutta and see how in these big *bastees* there is provision of latrines, of sanitary latrines and potable water and lighting, and pucca roads inside these *bastees* because they found they could not demolish the *bastees* altogether and construct new houses there, it is an impossible task, but the existing *bastees* should be improved and should be cleaned up. Much has been done, I don't say everything has been done, nothing to be very much satisfied about. But here compared to what we now come to know about this trans Jamuna area, it is 100 times better and certainly nobody there has dug hand pumps to a depth of only 10 ft, somebody has made money out of it, some plan has been made for 40—45 ft, and then later on it is found that it is dug to only 10 ft. There are contractors, there are people connected with these contractors. Is there no inquiry to be held into all these things? And really, people who are criminally at fault, are they not to be punished? They should be. That is what I demand and I hope that the whole House will collectively consider their responsibility to the poor people of this city and they take serious steps about the matter. Thank you.

16.33 hrs

**ANNOUNCEMENT RE. DISCUSSION
ON REPORTED INCOME OF JYOTS-
NA HOLDING PRIVATE LTD. FROM
SUMITOMO CORPORATION**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have an announce-
ment to make.

The Business Advisory Committee met today at 1400 hours to consider the date and time for discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made in the House today by the Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance regarding the reported income of Jyotsna Holdings Private Limited received from Sumitomo Corporation. The Committee could not come to any decision in the matter.

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) :** I would like to say something if you permit me, Mr. Chairman. The Committee could not come to a decision regarding holding the debate today or postponing it to tomorrow. But we have considered the stand taken by the Opposition Members, they were very much insistent that the debate should be taken up tomorrow. We agree that the debate under Rule 193 be taken up tomorrow at 12 o'Clock.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What will happen to the other discussion? In that case, what do you propose to do about the other discussion which was also fixed for tomorrow by the Business Advisory Committee on the massacre of Harijans and all that in Jahanabad in Bihar? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That we will take up tomorrow at 4 o'Clock.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : We can take that up at 4 o'Clock.

Since all of you were very keen, we considered that matter and in deference to your wishes—although we thought there was justification for discussing it today—but in deference to your wishes, we have agreed to discuss it tomorrow at 12 o'Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Mr. Virldhi Chander Jain may speak.

16.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

**INCIDENCE OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS
CHOLERA IN UNION TERRITORY
OF DELHI—Contd.**

**SHRI WIRDHI CHANDER JAIN
(Barmer) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the views expressed by Shri Indrajit Gupta and a sense of sadness prevails over me. According to the latest reports 212 persons have died of cholera and gastro enteritis. Every day 12 to 20 persons affected by these diseases are dying. According to the reports received, 12 persons have died today.

Arrangements to deal with the outbreak of Cholera and gastro-enteritis in Delhi's resettlement colonies, the trans-Yamuna colonies of Nand Nagri and Sunder Nagri in East Delhi and admission and treatment of patients in hospitals is not up to the mark. It is very important to have adequate facilities in hospitals for the treatment of persons affected by these diseases.

Information has been received that 11 lakh 47 thousand persons have been inoculated. The inoculation programme must be conducted with utmost urgency. Shri Tandon has stated that inoculation is less effective. I suggest that better and more effective vaccine be sought from the World Health Organisation or other organisations.

According to my information such conditions have been existing for the past 2 months and rains have made the situation worse. As Shri Indrajit Gupta was saying, it must be investigated why hand-pumps are only 10—12 feet in depth. What should have been their depth? This depth of only 10—12 feet makes it clear that rain and drain water accumulates there and mingles with the underground water which is ultimately drawn through the hand-pumps. Consumption of this polluted water leads to cholera and gastro-enteritis. What type of a permanent solution to this problem does the Government have in mind? May I also know what steps the Government propose to take to

provide potable water to the people in future ?

According to the information received by me, the heaps of garbage in the area which are now being removed, are being dumped again at nearby spots. This garbage will again lead to epidemics around its new dumping ground. I suggest that the garbage be dumped at a distant place so that no health problem arises.

When our Prime Minister reached there in the evening of 22.7.88, he found the situation horrible. It was only after making full assessment of the situation that he ordered that all cleaning and sanitary work should be completed within 72 hours. But I regret to say that this work has not been completed as yet. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how those sanitary workers cleared that garbage within 72 hours and how did they set right these hand-pumps so that the people could get clean water ?

I would like to bring one thing more to the notice of the hon Minister. The situation of cleanliness in public toilets is very bad and they remain very dirty. There is no proper arrangement of toilets in these colonies. No civilised person can use these toilets. Therefore, I request you to take steps in this direction also. Beside, the play-grounds for children are also in very bad shape. They remain water-logged and, as a result, the children cannot play there. Therefore, you should make arrangement of cleanliness there also.

The Cholera epidemic and Gastro-enteritis are not confined to Delhi alone. Punjab, Karnataka and Godavari area of Andhra Pradesh have also been hit. In this connection, I would like to know what type of assistance Central Government is providing to the State Governments ? Although you have suspended a number of officers, but it has been observed that officers are suspended on the spur of the moment but they are reinstated later on. I would like that this matter should be thoroughly investigated and the officers found guilty should be dismissed from service. Whatever action you want to take should be taken as early as possible.

What we hear now-a-days is that both Municipal Corporation as well as D.D.A. have disowned responsibility for sanitation. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to who is responsible for this after all ?

Another thing that I would like to know from the Hon. Minister is whether concerned officers had been visiting those areas from time to time and whether they had submitted any inspection reports after their visits ? According to my information, no officer had ever visited these areas.

It has also been observed that not only in Delhi but also in the State, sanitary staff (Harjans) in sufficient strength are not employed for sanitation work. In my opinion it is so due to the ban on fresh recruitment. This is the reason why this situation has arisen there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the amount earmarked in the Budget for sanitation and other such works has been fully utilised or not ?

I would also like to know from the hon, Minister whether D.D.A constructs these colonies in a planned manner ? The epidemic in Delhi has broken out due to filth and insanitation. Tonnes of garbage has accumulated in other areas also. In other cities, like Jaipur, you can see garbage littered on roads and in the lanes and the Municipalities/Corporations do not carry out their duties and they take no step toward cleanliness. It is true that this thing in Delhi came into prominence only after it came to the notice of the Prime Minister. What I mean to say is that if the work is done honestly and sincerely, such a situation cannot arise. It is only when sanitary staff and other Municipal employees fail to carry out their duties that such a situation occurs. As long as firm steps are not taken against the guilty after fixing criminal responsibilities. I am of the firm conviction that insanitation will continue to pose health hazards not only in Delhi but in all the capital cities. A number of diseases spread due to piling up of garbage. Therefore, arrangements should be made throughout the country to ensure the State Government provide aid to the Municipal Corporations

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

which are not able to carry out their duties due to poor financial condition, so that they could take up the work relating to removal of garbage and providing sanitary facilities on priority basis so as to avoid the outbreak of diseases. Such situation is created every year during the rainy season because when it rains the dirt and slush accumulates due to which diseases break out. Hence, there is a need to check them. It is the primary duty of our Government to check diseases from spreading. The way these diseases have taken the form of epidemic in Delhi, the Government must take steps to ensure that no further deaths take place due to cholera and gastro-enteritis. I want to know what firm steps are being taken in this direction?

With these words, I hope that our Government will take concrete step to ensure that such deaths do not occur due to Cholera and gastro-enteritis in Delhi in future. Government will have to make proper and permanent arrangement for it so that such diseases do not break out in future.

[English]

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI (Warangal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate and painful to raise a discussion in this august House on the human tragedy that has occurred due to the outbreak of gastro-enteritis and cholera affecting thousands of children and adults in the various parts of the capital. It is a regular phenomenon; every year, during the monsoon season, we get these outbreaks. Unfortunately Government has not taken any preventive or precautionary measure to avoid the outbreak; it shows the miserable failure of the Government in handling the disease-prone areas of the Capital in advance.

It is true that all the concerned officials and Ministers, including the Prime Minister, visit the areas whenever such an unfortunate incident occurs. But afterwards every one of them will forget about that incident and will forget to rectify the basic factors and causes which are responsible for the outbreak. They must remember and implement whatever we discuss here in the House. But unfortunately as soon as we go out of

the House, they forget about it and they are not implementing any thing. Therefore, every year the outbreak recurs and the discussion in this House also is repeated.

Some officials that this outbreak in the city was not due to cholera; but it is an acute form of gastro-enteritis. Whether it is cholera or gastro-enteritis, we are not bothered. We are worried for the loss of human lives which we could not replace with any amount of money or with anything else. For this laxity and in the deteriorating rate of functioning, responsibility should be taken by the Government.

It is true and I totally agree with the statement given by the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Moti Lal Vora that the Government is giving top priority in monitoring all these programmes like vaccinating, supply of vaccines, removal of hundreds of trucks of garbage, clearing of the sewage and changing of shallow hand pumps into deep hand pumps, etc. by involving all top most officials and Government machinery to coordinate these operations personally. I would like to know from the Government as to why these coordination, cooperation and monitoring were not there in these slums before the outbreak of this disease. Because of the lack of coordination and cooperation between DDA and MCD officials or because of lack of monitoring by these officials, these outbreaks have occurred.

No doubt, if any outbreak of epidemic or any disastrous situation happens, the Government tries to impress the public how fast the situation has been attended to or how fast they are tackling the situation without any delay through all the available media. But at the same time, I request the Government to use these media to create an awareness among the public regarding such situations-how to deal with such situations.

It is not a thing one has to feel happy about, but everyone has to feel the responsibility and the Government should think of the permanent measures to prevent such epidemics or outbreaks and early preventive measures like vaccination much earlier,

before monsoon season starts should be taken. Then we may not face such situations.

I would like to suggest that the Government should plan for the proper disposal of garbage. Since one year it seems they have not lifted the garbage from those re-settlement colonies and slum areas. Now they are lifting the garbage; but where do they put it again? What is the solution? What are you going to do with this garbage? For that why don't you establish some incinerators to burn this garbage and why don't you find a permanent solution for the disposal of garbage?

Monitoring the municipal corporation staff who see that the garbage is not thrown everywhere in the residential areas should be done. For that an awareness should be created among the inhabitants of those areas.

I would like to bring to your notice a point. One of our colleagues, Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi, an Hon. Member of Parliament, has repeatedly reminded the municipal corporation to lift the garbage from the Meena Bagh flats. For months together there was no response. Finally she has brought it to the notice of the Hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Saroj Khaparde also. But even today if you go and see those flats, the garbage is still lying there.

DR. D. N. REDDY: That is where our MPs reside. The same thing is there in the North Avenue quarters also. When the MPs' quarters are like that, you can imagine the plight of the rest of Delhi-how they are cleaning it and how is the sanitary condition there.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): I do agree with hon. Members on the Opposite but it is not under us. We will no doubt convey to the concerned authorities whatever has been mentioned by the hon. Member but I would like also to say that as citizens of this country we are equally responsible to get these things removed.

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: We are not asking you to remove the garbage but there should be better coordination between different departments.

Safe and protected water supply to all residential areas and particularly slums should be ensured. Before installing hand-pumps-shallow or deep-DDA should have taken technical expert advice. There are few septic latrines in the slum areas. You must construct septic latrines in proportion living in those slum areas. Hygiene and sanitation should be strictly maintained in those areas by periodical visits by the concerned officials and there should be strict monitoring of the class IV employees in respect of removal of garbage and sanitation.

Health education is lacking in the slum areas. We should create health awareness in these areas by whatever media that is available. Transfers of top officials and resignation of the Lt. Governor will not help in decline of the outbreak. It is only when officials feel their responsibility and job-satisfaction in doing things that our country can progress. DDA officials had not tested the quality of water in the tubewells before handing over the resettlement colonies to the MCD. Such thing should not be repeated in future.

It seems 1000 septic tanks set-up by DDA got choked due to heavy rains. Why did they not take technical advice before doing anything? These are the basic factors for the out break of gastroenteritis or cholera which should be rectified permanently by the Government.

Lastly I would like to stress Government to take permanent measures in such areas to avoid such human tragedy. Cooked food should not be allowed to be sold at railway stations etc. till the end of the monsoon season. I also request the Health Minister to give vaccination in advance not only for cholera but also for typhoid and infective hepatitis.

17.00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, today I am not saying for
the sake of words. I speak with pain
and sadness. I would request you to take
it that I am not speaking as a Minister
today. The Ministers concerned will speak.
As a Member of Parliament from Delhi
and from the area which has been affected,
I am speaking more in that capacity. I
am not going to make just a political
speech to score any points or to lose any
points. I want to speak my heart out.

I must thank the hon. Members who
have spoken before me—Indrajit Guptaji
and the honourable lady Member for
expressing their grave concern. They have
put some very positive and specific
questions. From the core of my
heart, I appreciate the concern shown
and some of the points that they
have raised. I entirely agree with Indrajit
Guptaji that this is not a matter which
should be seen just from a narrow political
angle. So many people have died. Most
of them are poor people. They have
suffered and suffered for a neglect, which
is continuing for a long time. There is no
doubt about it. I myself said it a neglect.
I know it more myself. They have suffered
for a neglect for a long time.

These 44 colonies came into existence
between 1975 and 1976. Over 15 lakhs
of people live in these colonies. These
colonies have been maintained from
1975-76 to 1986. I would not say that
they were ideal solutions of this. But all
these people were living on roadberms and
on public places, like parks and various
other places. During the Emergency, they
were shifted there. And some minimum
amenities were given to them. I will come
to it a little later.

A very large number of people have
died. A very large number of people have
suffered. The Press has done an admira-
ble job in pinpointing the situation, in

mentioning the situation and investigating
the situation. For that also, I wish to
appreciate all the public organisations.
Irrespective of any political approaches
and differences, I would like to appreciate
everyone who has shown concern for this
situation, that has arisen.

Now the Prime Minister felt it. I
hope, we would appreciate it. Well, the
Prime Minister of India had to go to see
such a situation itself shows that the situa-
tion was bad. The fact is that Prime
Minister chose to go and see the things
for himself. He himself decided to visit
the place. It was his own decision. I
went with his wife to see the situation. I
was with him. I know how he has not
gone on any dotted lines or anything which
the officials wanted to show. He went to
the streets. He went to the drains. He went
to the latrines. He went to all the places
and saw for himself. He talked to hun-
dreds and scores. Thousands and thousands
of people were there. He talked to a very
large number of them to see things for
himself.

Then, he held a meeting. He wanted
to give an opportunity to the persons con-
cerned—the executive authorities who were
dealing with things—to set things right.
Prime Minister's first and immediate con-
cern was to see that things were set right.
Things were really bad. That is what he
did. That is why the people and every-
body has appreciated the Prime Minister's
visit and the action plan drawn by him.
Prime Minister's action plan did not give
a general direction. The action plan meant
that the accumulated garbage, which runs
into hundreds of trucks, should be removed.
The action plan said that drains must be
clean. The action plan said that potable
drinking water supply should be made
available. The action plan said that the
drains must be desilted. The septic tank
must be cleared. A number of specific
points were decided. Ultimately some
targets were fixed with their consent. They
failed to do a number of targets. The
Prime Minister wanted to set the thing
right. That is why he wanted that they
should work and do these works. Those
targets were not achieved and the Prime
Minister took action—I think, one of the
severest actions perhaps in India—o

something very bad that happened. I feel ashamed about it and the Prime Minister took one of the severest actions. This action has been appreciated. Much more positive remains to be done in this connection so that their conditions stand better on a permanent footing. Now, one or two questions have been raised. I have been associated with these colonies for a long time. Some of the hon. Members have gone there and seen these colonies some time and they have concern for them. Their parties have concern, I know almost each of the workers of the different political parties there. I know them personally, I have gone there umpteen times not only in the past but after the election, I have gone there a hundred times to visit these colonies. I have gone there even before these diseases. I am not trying to explain my position. I was in Yugoslavia. As soon as I came back, on the same day, I had gone there. With respect, I would like to tell Mr. Indrajit Gupta that it is not that these colonies were put up just without any amenities. Every road was made pucca when they were settled there. Every bylane was made pucca. To begin with there were hundreds of electric poles put up there and electricity was supplied to them. They were given loans to build their small tenements, houses of one or two rooms. They were given 25 yards. Drains were made. In the beginning, it was hand pump water supply in all the colonies. Latrines were dry with the septic tanks. These and other were the arrangements made for them. There was a specific plan and the Government has spent crores and crores of rupees to improve the conditions of these resettlement colonies. I wish to say that in 1980, when we came back, I am not blaming anybody, we said that we shall give individual electricity connection to every home. Electricity connection was given to all these homes. Now Mr. Indrajit Gupta said and we said it and Mrs. Gandhi said it and the promise was fulfilled. Then we decided that we should give them pipe water supply. Mr. Indrajit Gupta raised a very valid question. The talk was about the pipe water supply. Pipe water supply was given. I wish to tell him that out of 44 colonies which came into existence, I think I may be wrong by one or two figures, otherwise

the Minister when he speaks can correct me, 35 colonies were provided with pipe water supply. I feel shocked. I feel shocked to tell this House that even in these colonies where cholera has come up, where people have died, which are the targets of attack, namely, Nand Nagri, Gokulpuri and Seemapuri, pipe water supply was made available. Public distribution system was laid. Some of the people did pay the money. Many representations were made. I have sent dozens of representations. I have myself written, I have spoken on telephone and I have had meetings telling the persons concerned... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : To whom ?

SHRI H.K.L BHAGAT : To the DDA, to the Lt. Governor and everybody concerned. That individual water connection... (*Interruptions*). It is a fact that the pipelines were there. It is a fact that Ganga water was available. Now they have taken up the position that these pipes were not put up properly and they are leaking and they are correcting it now giving them these connections. I was feeling that these connections could have been given earlier and it was the job of those who are bound to do it. All the parties, all residents and all the people sent their deputations and talked to people and the pipe water supply arrangements were made. I do not want to compare. Your party is also working. They are in touch with you. They are in touch with me also. I know every worker by name and every party who is working there. With respect, I wish to say that I have seen the slums in Calcutta once. Mr. Indrajit Gupta invited me to visit that constituency. I was the Minister of Works and Housing then. Here also, we had adopted the two pronged strategy. It is not that we have not improved the existing slums. There were a number of slums where we have improved them. We have given water and electricity. We have given them roads and drains. We have done it in scores of slums in Delhi as you have done in Calcutta. Now, about the question of resettlement of people who have been shifted from different places. You said that

[Shri H.K.L. Bhagat]

New Delhi is a show piece and show room. A number of jhugi jhonparis from all over Delhi were removed and they were settled in different places. Shri Indrajit Gupta feels as if we brought them there. No, we did not bring them there and I may tell you that I am not making any complaint. He himself said that this is a phenomenon all over the country. People from rural areas are migrating to urban centres like Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi as also to Madras to some extent. I might tell you from wherever they come, I know the position and character and composition of Delhi. Today Delhi has become a mini-India in terms of composition of people. A large number of people from all States are there. People from West Bengal run into thousands and the number is increasing. There are people from Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP, HP, Jammu and Kashmir as also from all over the country. There is an annual influx of three to four lakhs of people in addition to the internal population growing. A lot of pressure comes on Delhi. Some people go inside the jhugi-jhonparis cluster and some jhugi-jhonparis cluster people also develop outside the resettlement colonies and some go to the resettlement colonies. There is a separate scheme for jhugi-jhonparis cluster and some amenities are given to them. In some cases, some amenities have been provided to them. That was what was being done.

Unfortunately in this process of transfer DDA wanted to transfer it on the ground of financial stringency and the Corporation was not wanting to take it because of financial stringency. The Lt. Governor decided that they would be paid Rs. 30 crores. Some money was paid to them. DDA was supposed to work. The work came to a stand still. The Corporation did not take over. The work did not proceed as it should have proceeded. There was lethargy, there was indifference and the result has been what we are facing today.

I do not want to exchange arguments or do anything of the kind. We have all to work to improve the conditions. Targets have been laid. I am not satisfied. Shri Indrajit Gupta also said he was not satisfied.

Prime Minister is not satisfied. I have been visiting these colonies regularly not only now, but since I have been elected. I have visited hundred times. I know most of the families personally. Unfortunately, these things have happened. I am a very sad and pained man. We should cooperate together to improve the condition. A number of things have to be done. For example septic tanks. My sister the hon. Lady Member was correct. Sometimes we persisted on them to clean the septic tanks. When they cleaned the tank, the contractor would put it on the bund of the drain. Again, it would get contaminated. We told them to get some machine, where they can put it in a closed truck. The situation demands understanding, cooperation and hard work by all the people. A number of voluntary organizations are also working. It is not only the political parties, non-political parties, organizations are also working. It is a challenge to all of us and we shall face it together. I assure you that we are all together in this work. We are not making it a party issue, political issue; not at all. We never run away from taking the responsibility, from working and assisting the people. I am one of most pained man as you are all. We know they are all poor people.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You consider that the main culprit was DDA and not the Delhi Municipal Corporation, to whom the responsibility was transferred on 1st June and they say that they did not have any funds or equipment or workers. What about that ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : As I said, so far as I am concerned, it is the official agency, the Ministry concerned, who, as you said, should fix up the responsibility I am definitely of the view that the responsibility should be fixed. But the fact of the matter is that before May-June these colonies were in the charge of DDA and I do not believe that this garbage had collected during the last 2-3 months. It had accumulated for a longer period. Hundreds of trucks would not come within one or two months.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : When you went there hundred times, did not you see them ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I have gone there hundred times and I have brought it to their notice hundred times...(*Interruptions*).

They took some action. But the whole thing was not complete. They were expecting that this work will go away from them. When the Corporation took it, there was no question of funds. And they said... (*Interruptions*).

I cannot sit on a formal judgement on this. It is a matter for the official and formal agency to go into and to fix the responsibility. Some action has been taken and some further action is necessary. I thought I might make this clarification,

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, officially the Cholera epidemic has started in Delhi apparently in the month of July. It has not occurred before the month of July because the officials did not take any cognizance of either Cholera or Gastro enteritis possibly before the Prime Minister visited some of the re-settlement colonies. Only after the Prime Minister's visit, the people who were denying the existence of this epidemic in Delhi had to wake up and take its notice. But even before that the cases of Cholera and Gastro-enteritis were reported but the officials refused to take any notice. I cannot rely only on the official sources. The newspapers have said that even in the month of April, May and June there had been cases of Cholera admitted to J P Hospital. As many as 60 cases were admitted in just 3 months. The doctor in charge of the Paediatric Department had written to the Medical Superintendent that he has found some Cholera cases. Three months had gone since then but no action was taken to confirm it and then accordingly warn the concerned authorities so that the water supply position could be improved and other steps like the vaccination of cholera started. We have lost these precious three months because of the bureaucratic attitude of the concerned authority. In spite of the fact that Mr. Bhagat went there, he did not give this informations. In the Times of India, dated 27th July, 1988, a Chart about the cases of Gastro-enteritis has been published

giving the comparative statement of the month of April, May and June.

Year	Moith	No. of cases
1987	April	2378
1988	..	4785
1987	May	230
1988	May	3954
1987	June	1658
1988	June	4609

For the month of July the complete figures were not given. Anybody who is monitoring the health situation of Delhi would have easily understood that the Gastro-enteritis has come to Delhi in a big way. This could have been confirmed by the figures of the previous year. In other words the short term precautionary measures, like the supply of potable water, removal of garbage, cleaning of the Septic tanks, giving vaccination, could have been taken up in right earnest from the month of April itself. The treatment of Cholera and Gastro-enteritis is not different and the preventive measures in any case are the same. We require potable water in any case.

I visited some of these colonies. The condition that I have seen in them now is really horrible. I just could not imagine—living in New Delhi as I do in the MPs' quarters—that such conditions could exist within just 10 KM from where we live. It is just beyond our imagination that such horrible sanitary conditions can exist within a very short distance from the very posh colonies of New Delhi. We admit that there are so many slums in Calcutta. But the conditions there are nowhere as bad as they seem to be here. We were told that this was because of years of negligence. Mr. Bhagat is right. He has gone to these colonies hundreds of times and he knows better than me. Really speaking, the work of garbage clearance has come to a standstill over the last four to five years. People concerned with this cleaning work were not working at all. When people living in these colonies agitated in front of the DDA and other offices, the officials would see to it that the blocks where the

[Shri Amal Datta]

agitators came from would not be cleared. If at all the Safai Committee were to take up the cleaning work, they were directed to other blocks and they were specially told not to clear the blocks which belong to the agitators. I think Mr. Bhagat's protests only ensure that the colonies named were left uncleared and unattended to. This must have been the effect of that. I am sure, as a public man he did feel because his vote bank is there and he must keep the people pleased. He must have tried in earnest and failed. But it is a mystery to me as to why he did not go to the Prime Minister after failing in his endeavours. If such miracles can happen with just one visit of the Prime Minister now, had he informed the Prime Minister about the situation two or three years ago, people would not have suffered and died like today.

Sir, I have seen that the shortest term measures like supply of pure drinking water have not been taken adequately. We have been told...

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Will you please yield for a minute ? Please allow me to do a straightforward presentation of facts. These colonies came into existence in 1975-76. My impression is that till about 1986, they were maintained first fairly well and later tolerably well. Some deterioration started in 1987 and the deterioration became more acute in 1988. And earlier Prime Ministers have been visiting these colonies a number of times. Whenever I anticipated that the situation would be certainly so bad, I was bringing it to the notice of the concerned people. When it came to the notice of the Prime Minister that the situation was bad, he went there. This is only for your information. No arguments are needed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am surprised to hear that the deterioration started only one year back. When we asked the people—not one but dozens of them—they all stated that the deterioration has started five or six years back.

Well, this is not the end of the story again. Firstly, I would rather emphasise one thing. We found that even potable/drinking water is not there. The people have been specially told that the water in the handpumps should not be drunk because it is contaminated and polluted. There is some piped water supply, though not to the individual houses but in the streets. We were told that *Keedas* were found in the water supplied through these pipes. We do not understand as to how insects could be there in the water coming from the pipes. Perhaps, Mr. Bhagat or the Health Minister can explain this also later on.

Then Sir, the people were also told that water would be supplied to them in tankers. How many tankers ? Now, the Health Minister has given a statement in which he has listed so many measures that are being taken. He says that water is being provided by tankers. Does he know that only one tanker per block is being provided ? One tanker carries one thousand litres of water. In a block, five thousand people live. So how can these people survive on the tanker of water ? Naturally they have to go to those handpumps which they know are contaminated. They have to take water from the pipes which have got insects in it. They are also contaminated. I suppose there were leaks inside the pipes. So, willy-nilly, they have to take the water which they know is bad. It is surprising that more people have not been affected because of the inherent resistance that we Indians have ..

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Immunity.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Yes, immunity.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is why she did not get Gastro-enteritis !

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I would very humbly request the hon. Health Minister who has given us a Statement—it is good that a statement has come, but the statement is not quantified at all—should have at least been able to say that so many tankers have been given and one tanker is

meant to serve so many people, then we would have understood what kind of effort that the Government has in mind. Maybe you are in fact paying for five thousand litres, we do not know, but only fifty are reaching these colonies. As we were told that the Government is paying for hundreds of trucks for removal of garbage but most of them are not reaching the re-settlement colonies. They are only producing a bill and collecting the money. This kind of a crisis situation is a great opportunity for those people who want to fish in troubled waters. So, people are saying about the hiring of tankers from the Delhi Administration or whatever authority they may call it for clearance of garbage, but in fact they are not doing so. What is happening is, instead of removing the garbage in trucks, some trucks are removing, most of the time, the garbage but they keep in heaps and spread out on the roads. When the people protest, they are saying, "We will put some chemicals or some anti-septics on them and put mud on them and you will be safe." This is the type of thing that they are doing. When they are clearing the choke of drains, what are they doing? They are not taking the choke out, which is a semi-solid substance. They are not taking them out and carrying them away. They are taking them out and heaping them on the roads and the roads become impossible to walk on. So, they become a source of further infection. I have seen them.

There are no individual latrines. In these houses, people have been given 23 square yards of land. That means something like 200 square feet. So 200 square feet is the size of a normal room. That is what the space which they have given for building a house. Individually, they cannot construct any latrines or toilets. So, they do not have any individual connections.

There are community latrines. What is happening? Mr. Bhagat said that up to one year ago, everything was all right. But they told us that, at no point of time, there was adequate arrangement for clearing these septic tanks of these latrines. There may be seven or eight latrines in a row, serving a particular block where five thousand people live. So, not only they have to suffer standing in queue for going

to latrines in the morning, but also, apart from that, they may not be able to enter the latrines for quite a few months. They have taken to defecating in the open. Moreover latrines have been filled up because they are not being cleared. Because latrines have not been cleaned spillage of the latrines have over-flown into the roads.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : You come with me now. I will take you and you see for yourself what they are doing. Then you will know.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Some of us have gone there.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Mr. Bhagat, when you have seen this, you should have brought it to the attention of the House also. If you have failed, you should have brought it to our attention also. We might have been able to help you. This spillage of these latrines has not only come on the streets and overflowed into the streets, but has gone into the parks. These are really well-planned colonies, in the sense that the roads are laid out, and the parks are there. For every block, there is a park. These parks are meant for the children to play. Now imagine, this park is a cesspool for the faecal matter i.e. the park where the children are supposed to play. So, everything has become contaminated there, and there is no potable water.

The only solution would have been to supply adequate potable water to them. Even that is not being done. The garbage clearance is at a very slow pace. Mostly, they are not being cleared but dumped and spread on the same place. We have some experience in tackling such situations in *bastis*. Whenever flood occurs on Calcutta, we take drums of bleaching powder and strew the powder, because the bleaching powder has an action of chlorinating the substance; and then it helps to contain any kind of infection. But not a single spoonful of bleaching powder has been taken there. Nobody has ever thought about it, and it does not find a place in the Minister's list of things to be done.

They are speaking about rehydration packets. Very few of them were there. In one place, there was possibly a doctor sitting, before we went there. We found

[Shri Amal Datta]

that only 15 rehydration packets were there ; not even one-tenth of the need.

Nothing has been quantified. This is what I object to. The Minister has given a list of things being done. But to what extent it is being done, to what extent garbage is being cleared and all that—nothing has been said about it.

In the newspapers, the statements which come are all exaggerated. They say that out of 400 Kms. of drains to be cleared, so many have been cleared and only so much remains. This is not at all correct. If you go there, you will see it. I do not know how many times he has gone. The Minister says he has gone to the hospitals. How many times has he gone to these re-settlement colonies and other places, I do not know. But I find that they are still full—the drains are still full. Some have been cleared, and their contents dumped on the road. Nothing more than that.

These are the short-term measures which should have been taken, and have not been taken by the Government yet. It is a criminal neglect not to have noticed these things happening three months ago. Even after they have been noticed and after the Prime Minister's visit with much fanfare... (*Interruptions*) much fanfare because a lot of things are said in the newspapers, and giving of directions... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay ; don't fight. Please wind up, Mr. Datta.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am winding up. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : May I conclude by suggesting to the Minister that he goes there as a routine every day and sees what kind of work is being done for the immediate reliefs which are necessary? So far as the Health Minister is concerned, this is my suggestion. The Urban Development Minister who is in charge of these colonies is not here...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Dalbir Singh is here? "

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He is here —I am sorry. But he is not paying attention.

I think, the Minister for Urban Development is carrying a very big responsibility on his shoulders. We are spending about Rs. 1000 crores for 7 million people in Delhi ; the per capita comes to Rs. 1300 to Rs. 1400. Now how much out of it is being spent on these colonies, resettlement colonies, JJ colonies, which constitute the people of Delhi.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is actually spent ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Actually, they will never be able to find out. But even on paper how much is being spent? These people constitute about 25 lakhs, one-third of the population of Delhi. So, they are entitled to have spent on them Rs. 300 crores. We have just been given the figure of Rs. 30 crores by Mr. Bhagat that was allotted for the work to be done by DDA. Even that money was not given. Instead of giving Rs. 300 crores, you have allotted Rs. 30 crores and even that money was not given. This is the position. (*Interruptions*) I am not going to make a political issue out of this. I am telling you the economics of the whole thing. How have you worked out the economics of it? You spend Rs. 1000 crores for Delhi and out of that only Rs. 30 crores for these people. You will have to think about the strategy for development of these colonies.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing a very serious matter in this House. When I came to know about the outbreak of this epidemic in Trans-Yamuna colonies and the death caused as a result thereof, I felt very sad. I felt distressed also because only poor people were the victims of this disease.

These are not two opinions about the fact that diseases of Cholera and gastro-enteritis break out in the localities where

garbage gets accumulated, where there is filth and drains are choked and where only contaminated water is available for drinking. The worst-hit colonies in Delhi are Nandnagari, Kalyanpuri, Govindpuri and other neighbouring areas. As soon as we came to know of the outbreak of this disease, we were greatly worried and we took precautionary measures in our area. As you know, this is an infectious disease. Therefore, it is essential to check this disease with all seriousness

As you know, gastro-enteritis is caused by contaminated water. This disease cannot break out, if everybody gets clean drinking water. I was surprised to hear Mr. Gupta saying just now that this disease spread where handpumps were sunk only 10 feet deep or less. We have never seen any handpump being sunk only 10 feet deep. Everywhere, the handpumps are sunk at a depth at least 25—30 feet. This is for the first time that we have heard such a thing. He has also said that it is the responsibility of Bhagatji. It is totally incorrect. Shri Bhagat had worked day and night and his attention was always there. In spite of his being busy with the ministerial work he has paid full attention towards it. He held several meetings with the officials and also wrote many letters. 80 per cent electorate of Delhi has voted for us. Therefore, it is our duty to work for their welfare and that is what we did.

As you know, these resettlement colonies were built in 1975-76. Earlier, there were small jhuggies there. Later on, we allotted plots measuring 25 yards each to poor people there, built roads, constructed drainage system, laid sewerage lines, provided electricity, supplied Yamuna water for drinking, opened schools and provided facility of transport. All these facilities were provided to them only after 1980. Nobody paid attention towards them before that. What I mean to say is that all these facilities were provided after 1980, but now this work has somewhat slackened. From the D.D.A. they want to the Corporation. In D.D.A. the work was progressing somewhat slowly and in the Corporation resources were not available. Neither trucks, nor workers, nor any other means were available. As regards the sanitary workers of

Dakshinpuri, Madangir and Tigri, half of them were absorbed by the Corporation and the other half, who were not absorbed, approached me and I told them I would make all efforts to help them in this regard. They had neither trucks nor any other means to remove the garbage. For two months nobody bothered to pay any heed towards this matter and the filth spread to an extent that it resulted in the outbreak of these diseases. It is a matter of grave concern because the poor people are more affected by them and hence, I want to submit to the House that control rooms have been opened at four places for checking these diseases. One control room has been opened at the AICC office, another at the Mayor's office, and still another at the office of the Chief Executive Councillor, Shri Jag Pravech Chandra and at all these centres arrangements have been made for providing medical treatment and affected people can contact the control rooms in case they are not able to make their own arrangements and we have been making full efforts in this regard. Subsequently, the hon. Prime Minister went there and soon after his visit cleaning work started. He did not visit our area, but as soon as he set his foot on the trans-Yamuna areas, cleaning operation in all the J.J. Colonies started. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for having visited these areas because cleaning operation started vigorously as a result of his visit. It opened the eyes of us all irrespective of our party affiliations as well as those of the Members of the Corporation, the Metropolitan Council and the concerned officers. What I mean to say is this that much efforts were made for making cleanliness and sanitation arrangements. I go around my area everyday and I have seen that the entire garbage has been cleared and the drains have been cleaned. Cleaning of large drains have also started. Similarly we have also begun a campaign for cleanliness and the hon. Members of D.D.C.C., D.P.C.C., A.I.C.C. and the chairman of the concerned blocks and the workers of the area participated in it. The public also joined in these efforts and did their share of work. Thus we were able to attain our objective of cleaning the gutters, sewers and latrines so that the epidemic is controlled.

[Shri Bharat Singh]

Subsequently, we started 80 camps. We made arrangements for vaccination in these camps and instructed the people avoid eating rotten fruit, boil water before drinking it ; avoid water of handpumps ; dump garbage only in the garbage dumps and not on the streets. We have thus been instructing the public from time to time. Chlorine tablets and powder were supplied by the administration for purifying water and making it safe for drinking so that the epidemic is controlled. But you know the extent of dirty water stagnating in these colonies which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. It is not that the entire area has been totally cleaned and I am not claiming anything like this. In Peerghati, land was acquired at the rate of Rs 2 per sq. yard and today it is selling at Rs. 5000 per sq. yard and that village is still water-logged. Malviya Nagar Which is a D.D.A. colony, is also suffering from the same problem. I had appealed six times for the draining out of this water and for laying of sewers but the situation has not improved so far.

Similarly, in Chhayanagar J.J. Colony, 15271 vaccination were given, in Shakurpur J.J. Colony 3116 vaccinations were given, in Jwalapur J.J. Colony, this number was 3335 and in the Najafgarh Zone the school children were vaccinated because children are more vulnerable to diseases like cholera. The adults have resistance power but not the children. Hence, it was very essential to vaccinate the school children and 62 thousand school children and private persons were vaccinated. 5,200 persons were vaccinated in Mongolpuri, 1633 in Sultanpuri, 3700 in Hastal J.J. Colony and 3000 in Madangir. In the Najafgarh area also vaccination drive has been undertaken. In Haidarpur 300 people have been vaccinated. In Mangolpuri also a temporary camp has been set up. Vaccination work in this area is still not complete and it will take another two weeks. I want to submit that maximum amount of work is in progress but if the same had been started earlier this disease would have not broken out. I want to submit that the amount of resources extended to the poor people of these colonies after 1980 has been much more than that made available

during 1977 to 1980. These resources have been mobilised by our Government. We want that the people should get proper amenities. There the drains and latrines should be cleaned. Super bazaars have been opened so that quality items are made available. Pulses vegetables, and other food items of good quality should be made available to them so that such diseases are checked. What I mean to say is this that, irrespective of whichever organisation is at work, the D.D.A, the Corporation or any other body, the work should be of the order of the N.D.M.C. and these poor people should also get the same amenities as that given to the people living in the N.D.M.C. areas. These hardworking people deserve such facilities. Even today safe drinking water is in short supply in many places and this matter has been raised many times in the House. This matter was raised even two years ago. The population of Delhi is increasing constantly and therefore more drinking water is required. You may get this water from anywhere, no matter whether it is from Haryana or from Bhakra in Punjab, but the capital's quota should be fulfilled. Delhi should be provided with its full quota of safe drinking water. The population of Delhi kept on increasing and resettlement colonies multiplied accordingly. Earlier water used to be supplied from Yamuna for drinking purposes in the villages, but now tubewells have been installed wherever there is scarcity of water. Deep tubewells have been installed. We want that safe drinking water should be provided to the people. We made full efforts and were able to check the outbreak of various diseases. In my opinion, hon. Shri Bhagat is more concerned because it is his area but we are also concerned. All the hon. Members present here have spoken on this subject. I would thank them and tell them that maximum funds should be spent for checking this epidemic and for saving the people. I thank the hon. Prime Minister for his visit to the Trans-Yamuna colonies because cleaning operation has begun in the various colonies of Delhi only after his visit. I would say that the work is still not complete and if it is continued for another two months, then there will be total cleanliness. I also suggest that this filth should be filled in earthen pitchers and laid

underground. When there is sanitation there will be safe drinking water. In some colonies like Sultanpuri, Mangolpuri, etc. neither water, nor electricity, nor any other amenities are available. I want to submit that even if an amount of Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs is to be spent here, it will not be too much. We should make water and electricity available to these people as well as mobilise required resources for that end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I expect that the points raised in the House will be considered. Wherever water has not been drained out, resources should be mobilised for draining it out. All this should be done. The roads are damaged and should be repaired. If Government takes necessary action, all this can be accomplished. I think that if the work is continued for two months, it will be completed properly. During monsoons, roads cannot be repaired but drains and safety tanks can be cleaned and dirty water can be drained out from the gutters.

I thank you for giving me time to make my submissions.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. The telephone system in North Avenue has been lying dead for the past 24 hours. The water and electricity arrangements are also not proper. This Government is absolutely inefficient, it should submit its resignation.....
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We want Santosh Mohan Dev back in the Communications ; otherwise, telephones are not working-or Home plus Communications.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : The callous indifference and criminal negligence of the authorities is leading this nation a big tragedy. The crocodile tears and crying over the spilt milk is not the solution. Now, if we look at the problem, the question is whether

even now the Government has moved on a war footing to prevent this epidemic and also taken necessary steps which they could take. I would say that it has not been done.

As Mr Indrajit Gupta told the House and other speakers also elucidated, the problem was known to the Government much earlier. These conditions of slum dwellers and people who live in jhuggis were known to the leaders and the administration. But nobody has taken any care to prevent this. Now as a consequence of cholera and gastro enteritis, the medical experts pine, that other diseases like jaundice, typhoid are on the way. And when all these epidemics will be there together, how many lives they will take from here is yet to be known. It started in the slums and jhuggis. The report says that as early as 13th July this was observed by the press people and they brought it to the people's notice. Three children were brought in a hospital and there they died. There it was suspected that they died of cholera. Then it was taken note of. It was notified that cholera had come or gastro-enteritis is spreading. They were brought in a colony where 3000 people are living. The name of the colony is Sonia Gandhi colony. There is started. From there it spreads to the next colony which is called Sanjay Gandhi Colony and then it goes to Indira Gandhi Colony. Like that, it spreads all over the place. When we go into the details, the press investigating stories tell us the amenities provided for these people. For these 3000 people living in the Sonia Gandhi Colony, there were five taps and out of that two were not working and there were five hand-pumps. Then the whole area is having foul smell and there is no drainage system 'The Hindustan Times' came up with the investigative story and published half a page on it. Then other papers also carried the stories. Mr. Bhagat was praising the press for bringing out these things. The report says that the responsibility of tackling this problem mainly lies with the Municipal Administration according to DDA. And according to Municipal authorities it rests with the Delhi Development Authority and Central Government. Central Government also is directly involved in the administration of Delhi.

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

I would say that this has shown that they were not tackling the problem properly when it was arising. So, it is high time to give Statehood to Delhi if the people of Delhi have to solve their problems themselves. From this, a lesson has to be taken that if the DDA, or the Delhi Municipal Corporation or the Central Government cannot take necessary steps to prevent such things, then naturally the only thing that they can do is to give Delhi a government which can directly look into the problems, where the people themselves are involved. So, if Statehood is given to Delhi, perhaps that may create a situation where they may be able to plan properly for the poor people living in Delhi. Of course, the DDA the Central Government and other agencies are planning, but they are planning mainly for the welfare of and for providing amenities to the upper class of the society and not for the poor people. Nobody is there to look after the problems of the poor people who are living in these conditions.

One after the other, these epidemics are spreading. These things are coming in the Press also. But nobody is there to take note of these things. Now, finally, the Lt. Governor Mr. Kapoor and some other big officers have been made scapegoats. Of course, appropriate action at appropriate time was not taken. The Prime Minister visited the affected locality, but has it given any remedy to the poor people? Has it created any change in the situation? Even today it is reported that thousands of people are reporting in the hospital, six or seven beds may be there. People are just made to stay there for two or three hours. After that, some medicine is given to them and they are sent back to their *Jhuggies*. In the resettlement colonies, people are not having food or anything like that. Has the Government given them free ration? At least after these areas having been declared as epidemic-affected areas, it was the duty of the Government to see that sufficient ration is provided to the people to get food. Government should have seen to it whether water, which is the most important thing, is made available, whether medicines are made available, whether volunteers and officers are there to look after the cleanliness and sanitation arrangements. Nothing has been seen, and all these things are continuing

even today. In what manner are they solving the problem? In what manner are they involved? A statement has been made in this House stating certain things, but that spells out nothing. What they have done to solve this problem is not there in detail. Still the same conditions are prevailing. According to my information, the same conditions are still prevailing. The only thing is that the Lt. Governor has resigned and action has been taken against a few officers. Some of the officers have been transferred to other areas. There also the same thing will happen. If they are proceeding in this manner, tomorrow again the same problem will come back and there will be nobody to look after these poor people. This gastro-enteritis and cholera has broken out in Delhi. This has revealed certain things. The same disease has spread out in Meerut. The Meerut report is that 69 persons have died there because of cholera. It has started from Delhi and has spread over to other parts of the country. This will reach the whole of the nation. Cholera, according to the reports of the Government of India, has been contained. It has been eradicated or near-eradicated. So, it is coming back now. Typhoid, according to the medical reports, has been eradicated. Malaria has also been eradicated. But all these things are still there. I would like to say that according to the doctors' report, it is not only the poor people who get affected, the report says that even the pipe water which is supplied to the houses and flats in Delhi, is also contaminated. That can also cause these things. So, if it has started from Sonia Gandhi Colony, spread over to Sanjay Gandhi Colony and then to Indira Gandhi Colony, it will spread over to Rajiv Gandhi Colony also. Without any hesitation, it will spread over there also. His visit will not solve the problem, action alone will solve the problem. Action is not yet taken, that is my complaint. Still you are politicising this issue. Those people who brought these people there are still there. They are not looking after them. Therefore, urgent steps have to be taken in this regard.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL
(Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, it is really shocking that more than 200 people have died in Delhi, in the capital of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think we can extend the time of House by one hour or so.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : You may consider extending the time of the House by two hours.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I think we can allow more time so that we can finish this item.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we can sit till we finish this item.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : So many people have died. Whatever we do, whatever relief operations we undertake are not enough. It is a fact that we have done a lot after cholera epidemic persuaded and it took a heavy toll. We organised camps and the Hon. Prime Minister and Mr. Bhagat visited the affected areas. But, will it all stop deaths? Today, Delhi is facing such a situation which you want like to see with your own eyes. The death toll has reached the mark of 200. Its recurrence is not likely to be stopped. The conditions of the colonies in Delhi is such that the epidemic is likely to spread again. The issue would be raised in and discussed in this House again. Who is responsible for this all? It hardly matters that a particular colony has been shifted from the charge of the Corporation to the DDA or vice versa. The point is, as to who is responsible for the condition of the sewers which have been found choked and connected with water pipes for years. The hon. Minister along with me visited the slums and the houses there in old Delhi. The garbage is not collected and cleared from there for days together and that creates unhygienic conditions resulting in the death of the people living in the adjoining houses. But nobody bothers about that. When officers do not pay any heed to the instructions of Shri Bhagat what we the MP from Delhi can do?

Delhi Municipal Corporation is an elected body and the decisions are taken by the elected members there. Despite the fact that DDA was given a huge budget to develop the colonies and conduct the cleaning operations, the cleaning operation and the construction of the roads are the works which are being under taken by both the DDA and the Corporation. Some times it becomes difficult to find out as to which agency will undertake the work and how the work will be completed. This is the reason that the garbage goes piling up and it is not collected and removed. See the condition of the parks. The garbage from the sewers is thrown into the parks, it is almost hellish there. No official from DDA bothers to listen to the complaints about the unhygienic conditions. There is no control over them. We did not get any opportunity to discuss and bring to light the affairs of DDA as the Ministry of Urban Development had not introduced any bill here in this House. The officers take decisions, which suits them and act arbitrarily. Recently a decision has been taken to construct an underground parking for 700 cars in Chandani Chowk. What can we expect from those who can construct building without laying its foundations? How can a parking place for 700 cars can be managed at a place where it is difficult for 100 cars to move. These are the ways they are planning things. No one is prepared to listen to anything. I think, unless stringent steps are taken at this juncture the possibility of recurrence of such mishaps will always be there. Delhi is a very big city with many colonies where the population has reached to the mark of 80 lakhs. The facilities of hospitals and dispensaries provided are in proportion to the expansion of Delhi and to the population explosion there. No single body hold the entire responsibility. There are 5, 6 bodies and they accuse each other and no one owns the responsibility. Unless the Government takes action, nothing concrete will come out. L and DO has given the charge of a number of colonies to the Corporation while the Corporation refuses the transference of any charge to them. Kamla market is one of them. A number of group housing societies have constructed their buildings but they have not been provided with water supply and the roads.

[Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal]

DDA has not provided the required facilities. Sewers are not cleaned. Under these circumstances, such mishaps are likely to occur and epidemics are likely to spread.

A few people have been held guilty for this. Death sentence is given to a criminal who commits a murder. Here 200 people have died and nobody has been penalised for the lapse. Mere suspension will not do. Lt. Governor of Delhi has resigned, it is good. What did he do for Delhi? He did not allow the opening ceremony of any building unless there was an inaugural stone affixed in his own name. Every day new plans are prepared. Corporation acts like a planning body. Instead of allocating the funds to the corporation, the Government allocated funds to DDA which is not conversant with the actual needs of Delhi. It is the officers who are reigning supreme in DDA. They are busy in constructing community centres whereas the need of the time is to construct more schools and dispensaries. Nobody is prepared to listen to our suggestions. Who is responsible for this all? Suspension of a few officers for being responsible for these deaths is not enough. Criminal cases should be instituted against them. This will make them think twice before taking a wrong decision. I would like to give certain suggestions also. Number of hospitals and dispensaries should commensurate with the increasing population. There should be a good sewerage system with proper outlets. In 'Majnu Ka Tila' an area in my constituency, hand pumps have been installed at a very low depth, say at the depth of 10 feet whereas the depth should have been 70 to 80 feet. Water from sewers percolates into the handpumps. Roads are in dilapidated condition. No arrangements are made to spray insecticides there. The authorities try to harass the people of flimsy ground instead of paying attention to the proper civic amenities. The hon. Minister has surveyed the slum areas in old Delhi. It is not a worth living place. It is difficult for a person to pass through that once. It is difficult to breathe even in such a polluted atmosphere. In these conditions certain families are living and facing various diseases. Insecticide smoke vans should be pressed into service again. The number of such vans and frequency of spray should

be increased in order to control the disease. Shallow handpumps should be removed, otherwise the disease is not going to be controlled. In old Delhi many patients have gone to the hospitals and many are being treated by private doctors. Many private doctors are inoculating as many as twenty persons with the same needle. It will result in spreading jaundice and ultimately there will be deaths due to spreading of jaundice. Private doctor sitting on road sides or pavements charge Rs. 20 from one patient and earns about Rs. 2000 per day. This should be checked. It should be banned and such doctors should be warned. The division of Delhi into various parts under the control of various bodies should be done away with. It creates problem for a body to decide in a particular matter. Every individual evades his responsibility and no solution comes out. I would like you to consider these suggestions and take effective action.

[English]

CHOUHARY KHURSHID AHMED (Faridabad): Sir, as most of the Members of this House have unanimously expressed their feelings with regard to this... (Inter-ruption). I am afraid that you cannot send them back to Faridabad.

Sir, all of us have carefully heard everybody else's speech here and the concern for the tragedy which we are examining here as a *post mortem*. Had some preventive care been taken, I think, the tragedy could have been averted. But as usual, nobody cares for the slum dwellers. Nobody takes care as to how do these people live and even if somebody takes care, as our hon. Minister, Mr. Bhagat has explained that he paid about 100 visits, even then he had not been taken seriously by bureaucracy and things had not improved. If his visits are not taken seriously, in his own State, in his own constituency with regard to these poor people, who else can be effective in such cases? There seems to be something really shockingly lacking at proper place.

They have said that all these *jhuggi jhonpuri* colonies were faultlessly planned; roads were provided; potable water and

sanitary arrangements were supposed to have been given. But, at present, nothing exists. Where has it disappeared? Were they only on paper and shown only on plans or these things, in the matter of execution, were executed only on records of corporation or other bodies? It seems they were not executed and only remained on paper. Again, something has gone wrong somewhere. That has to be found out and who is responsible for this should be taken to task. 214 people have already died and by now, there may be some more deaths. Somebody should be held responsible. This is a murder of the human beings, poor people living in poor colonies. Just now, it was pointed out that about thousand crores of rupees were spent on Delhi. How much of it goes to the poor people and how much is their share? Are they not human beings? Only now we think that we should go to these areas; we should visit Nand Nagri.

Even *The Hindustan Times*, 23rd July refers to the scheme which was inaugurated by Mr. Bhagat himself. It says, "With great fanfare, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat has inaugurated the laying of water pipelines about a year ago, with the slogan "PEEWO AUR JEEWO", (Drink and live) at Nand Nagri". But what has happened? They have drunk it and died. Everything has gone wrong. The administration, the agencies and the compartmentalised departments blame each other. DDA puts blame on the Corporation and the Corporation puts blame on the DDA. And then, some of the officers put blame on another and *vice versa*. It is not sufficient. Change of Lt. Governor or some people at the top of a few Departments, does not solve the problem. We should have carefully planned and taken care of the situation. When there were disease prone areas, preventive health measures should have been taken. Health Department should have warned everybody concerned in the administration that it is likely that some epidemic spreads in these areas. That has not been done. Even the Health Department has failed, not to say Corporation and DDA.

Most of these congested slums are coming up not only in Delhi but in the

other areas also. There also there is a danger of such disease, if proper care for slums and their improvement is not taken. All the urbanisation, whatever it is taking place, would lead to such tragedies. It is the compulsion that people come to cities from the places where there is no source of livelihood. They come in search of bread to the cities. They settle down at whatever place that is available and if they are not given the amenities, one day this congestion would lead to such tragedies not only in Delhi but in other areas also. So, the Urban Development Authority, whether it is of the Government of India or of the State or any other agency should think of planning about slum areas where poor people get gathered without proper amenities made available to them. If we do not care for them, then ultimately we will be facing all these tragedies not only in Delhi but in other areas even. So, my request to the Government is that they should carefully plan the improvement of the slums wherever they have come up. It may be that they can give potable water which is the first requirement. Then, other sanitary measures, wherever possible, can be given. These people are concentrating in small quarters. One place is named as Public Convenience. It has become the most convenient place in the whole of the area and there is so much foul smell that people cannot pass through those localities. So, such things should be taken care of.

Sir, what to speak of these poor people and poor colonies. As a new Member of this House, when I entered the magnificent edifice of the Western Court, the moment I opened the door I smelled that foul smell from even those quarters. They are also not maintained. I don't think the carpets have ever been cleared so far right from the time they were purchased. I found that there is another door through which there can be some cross-ventilation. I found that shutters of the door were nailed to the door-frame so that I could not open it. There is no cross-ventilation. So, when MPs are not taken care of by those people who are responsible for maintaining the living conditions of the human beings, then what to say of these poor people who are living in the slums. So, Sir, I request that something should be done for them.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg due attention of the House to my submission. The people who have died in Delhi due to diseases include a number of persons from my own constituency who had come here in search of their livelihood. Out of such persons there were quite a few who had only two issues and had already undergone vesectomy operation. This epidemic has snatched even those two issues from them. In the Kalawati Saran Hospital, a person brought his child who was suffering from cholera. No attention was paid to him even after his three hours of stay there. With great difficulty he rang me and I rang back to the Medical Superintendent of Kalawati Saran Hospital but could not contact him. On ringing the Deputy Superintendent, when I could contact him, I requested him to treat the cholera-struck child. At first he said that he was not in a position to treat the child but when by a chance I asked his name and I disclosed my identity and told him that in case of any slackness on his part I would raise this issue in the Parliament, he got afraid and agreed to give treatment to the child. Therefore he provided a bed to the child and the child even recovered after the treatment. This illustration will make the whole situation clear to you.

One of our hon. Ministers who is no more a Minister, used to say that he was the Minister of Works and Housing but no one in the D.D.A. used to pay heed to him. I still doubt whether the D.D.A. personnel do listen to the Minister of Works and Housing but I am very much aware about the M.C.D. because I have been in Delhi for the last 20 years and I am well conversant with each nook and corner of Delhi. I have seen the whole of South Delhi. I can affirm that the colonies of South Delhi are stinking with garbage and if you accompany me there you will find that the M.C.D. employees are not prepared to remove it. On the other hand, in spite of there being no arrangements for cleanliness, the M.C.D. personnel are going on increasing the taxes. Who will pay attention to this? We are grateful to our hon. Prime Minister for having visited a few areas in East Delhi after which sani-

tation programmes started there. He has done a very good job by removing the Lt. Governor of Delhi and the high officials of D.D.A., M.C.D. and Delhi Administration. If the Hon. Prime Minister had not visited those areas, the number of people dying due to cholera and gastro-enteritis would have reached 500 instead of 200. Therefore the hon. Prime Minister has taken an extremely commendable step. But my submission is that proper compensation should be given to those who have died because they have not died due to their own fault. Just as whenever there is an accident in the Railways, the authorities pay proper compensation to the victims, similarly the people who have died in this epidemic have died due to our fault and therefore they too should get compensation from whatever source it might be. Secondly, I want to submit that we should view this issue by rising above the party politics because this is not the subject of any particular party. You should set up a judicial enquiry to enquire into this matter and give the severest punishment to the persons found to be guilty. If I am guilty, then even I should be punished severely.

I, a Member of Parliament kept on searching for a cholera vaccination for 10 days but all the hospitals replied in negative. I visited the Parliament Annexe, Sufderjang Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital twice but to no avail I was told to come on the next day for the vaccination. At last I got the vaccination from N.D.M.C. dispensary with great difficulty. When a person like me, who is an M.P., has to face such a situation, then you can very well imagine what will be the condition of others.

Sir, this is very serious subject. Shri Aggarwal has aptly said that 200 people have died this year and many hundreds will die next year. The residents of Nand Nagri constitute majority of people from my constituency who have come to Delhi in search of livelihood. You have really obliged them by providing plots measuring 25 sq. yards to each of them I visited Nand Nagri in February and I instantly uttered that this was not "Nand Nagri" but "Gand (filth) Nagri". The garbage there was spread to the extent that you

could not remove handkerchief from your nose. Someone must be responsible for this at some stage. We all talk big and preach sermons to others that the culprits should be hanged. Should those people not be hanged who are responsible for killing 200 people? Do we have no humanity? We should consider this seriously.

Just now Shri Gupta was asking the hon. Minister in a lighter vein whether he too is suffering from gastro-enteritis? This is what we may say that during Mughal rule whenever one wanted to curse somebody, he used to say that may the other person suffer from Cholera. Even today people in the rural areas curse likewise. The hon. Minister is not suffering from gastro-enteritis but I know what its pain is like.

The Tropical Medical Institute in London had prepared the formula that if a patient is given a mixture containing 4 spoonful of sugar and 2 spoonful of salt then dehydration will be cured. I thank him for this discovery. On the basis of this formula alone the terrible Cholera which spread in Bangladesh last year, could be controlled. On the television you give wide publicity to it that by giving a mixture of a pinch of salt and a pinch of sugar, Cholera can be treated in minutes such a publicity and telecast alone will not do. I submit that you should seriously pay attention to this.

I congratulate all the newspapers and the press world who have brought reality into light, and exposed us. There is a limit to hypocrisy too. You publicise it everyday on the T.V. that hygienic conditions should be brought. Do you ever think of implementing the publicity done by you? My submission to the Government is to stop indulging in hollow talks and put two Research Assistants to the job to get the facts reported in the newspapers for the last one month verified. Is it not a criminal negligence? If it is a criminal negligence, then the guilty must be punished.

I would also like to add that Cholera has not yet been brought under control and the garbage and the drains in Nand Nagri

have not yet been cleaned. There is no provision of toilets there. The same condition prevails everywhere whether it is Nand Nagri or any re-settlement colony. You have merely named them as re-settlement colonies but it is yet another name of slums. The people come here in search of their livelihood. Who do you not stop this? You should make some such provision that the people do not have to come here in search of their livelihood. You should start such schemes in the rural areas itself so that the people may earn their livelihood there itself.

Sir, now the time has changed. Now the situation of wide disparity in which a few people prosper, while the others die of Cholera, can not be tolerated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I again say that there is widespread corruption in the D.D.A. The D.D.A. has even constructed houses without foundation.

The newspapers at that time had reported that it was the 7th and 8th wonder of the World that the D.D.A. constructed houses without foundation. You will get to know about the extent of corruption there only when you institute an enquiry into the illegal earnings of the officers in that department.

It is certainly a miracle as to how people have remained alive for so long. Diseases spread due to exposed goods. You will find exposed food scattered even in Parliament street and Connaught Place.

The Government is trying very hard and there is a lot of publicity even on Radio and T.V. about preventive measures against gastro-enteritis in plain terms. I do not understand why do you not call it diarrhoea. A lot of people ask me what gastro-enteritis is. I tell them that they should ask those who are publicising about it. You should tell about the treatment of diarrhoea.

In the end, I will say that you should take practical view and consider it according to the practical conditions. In this respect I find myself as guilty as anyone else is. My submission is that a permanent solution should be sought for this problem.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are all concerned about Cholera and gastro-enteritis which has spread in Delhi and people from both the sides have expressed their concern about it.

If from humane point of view our hon. Member objects to call it gastro enteritis, then he may call it diarrhoea. In fact it is extremely essential to express our deep concern about it. Though in verbal terms the action taken on it appears to be inadequate, but there is no denying the fact that adequate action has been taken in pursuance to the concern expressed by us in this House.

On 22nd July our hon. Prime Minister himself visited the trans-Yamuna area. This makes it clear that the Government has taken due note of it. The Hon. Prime Minister went straight to those places where such a situation has developed. So a single individual or an organisation cannot be pin pointed for this lapse. As Shri Indrajit Gupta said and it has been reported in the newspapers also that when a question of fixing responsibility for any lapse arises in Delhi, it can not be done due to multiplicity of agencies in Delhi. Really it is a very sorry state of affairs.

The most essential thing in my view is that basically D.D.A, M.C.D. and Delhi Administration are three such agencies whose responsibilities resemble each other in different ways. All these three bodies function in their own way but there is no responsibility shared by any particular person. It would be proper if only one of these institutions is entrusted with the responsibility. Removal of Lt. Governor or Chief Secretary or Municipal Commissioner or certain officers will not solve the problem. Unless responsibility is fixed upon any one of institutions or individual. It will be wrong to hold anybody guilty.

Shri Gupta has raised a few points relating to the city of Calcutta. I too have seen and I admit that there has been a lot of improvement in the condition of the city's slums. But I want to know his reaction to a report which has been published

in the Hindustan Times of 2nd June. The report says that the total number of cases in Calcutta is 3019 while the death toll is 192. This means that there have been such cases in Calcutta also. This is the report of 2nd June. Hence, preventive steps will have to be taken to control this epidemic over there. Such cases have been reported from elsewhere also.

As to the technical aspect of the case, I belong to the medical profession and I can say that factors causing this epidemic are atmospheric pollution, impure drinking water and lack of sanitation. We often come across this problem in newly developed colonies. More and more colonies are coming up, due to large-scale migration of rural population to urban areas. The Delhi Development Authority ought to be renamed as the Delhi Unauthorized Authority. This will, in my opinion, not only be most appropriate but also sound good to the ears. Will the hon. Minister of State for Urban Development, who is present here, please tell us if anyone can construct a house in any form and at any place in Delhi? Why are so many unauthorized colonies coming up in Delhi? I feel that discussions on this subject are not enough. Everyday unauthorised structures are coming up. Nothing is being done to stop this practice. One of the reasons for this is that there are three institutions which are working simultaneously. None of them is sure who is responsible for what. Shri Jai Prakash has rightly said that unless growth of unauthorised colonies is checked, conditions will not improve. People will remain unsure of their safety. This is a matter of grave concern. If sewerage and drinking water pipelines are laid at the same level under ground, leakage in the sewerage pipeline will naturally contaminate the drinking water. Our Press has also high-lighted this fact. For this our Press deserves appreciation. Drinking water in the trans-Yamuna colonies has been found to be containing vermins. Therefore, it is very important for us to pay attention to this aspect.

A lot has been reported in the Press about vaccination. I want to know if the efficacy of the anti-cholera vaccine you are supplying is just 50%. We cannot be sure if this vaccine will really prevent a person

from contracting cholera. A statement from the W.H.O. says that this vaccine has about 90% efficacy. It would be better if the hon. Health Minister confirms the veracity of this statement so that we may know whether the efficacy of the anti-cholera vaccine is 90% or just 50%? Will the anti-cholera vaccine serve as preventive for the people against cholera, specially in the unaffected areas? Whoever has already faced an attack of cholera does not need vaccination as much as those who are susceptible to this epidemic in future. The cholera-causing virus is called 'vibrio cholera'. Strain of this virus is different from the strain being used in the vaccine for the present situation. This vaccine belongs to a different sub-culture. Will this strain be applicable to the current problem? Sir, it is necessary to be assured of certain things. Treatment of persons already affected by cholera is necessary. Saving the unaffected is just as important as treating the patients.

This is a question on which we can have unending discussions. In the end I want to say that instead of multiplicity of authorities, there should be single unified authority in Delhi to have absolute responsibility so that at any time, any Government finds it easy to fix responsibility on an individual or institution. It is a matter of shame that today we find it impossible to fix responsibility on any particular individual or organisation for the 200 deaths in Delhi

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, it is a matter of shame that 200 people have died in the trans-Yamuna area of Delhi. I congratulate Shri Indrajit Gupta for having raised such an important matter in the House and giving me an opportunity to speak. I cannot approve of the incident which has resulted in the death of 200 persons. Many such incidents or tremendous magnitude occur in our country and only in the aftermath of an incident does realisation dawn upon us. Only then do we go into the whys and hows of the incident. We can prevent the occurrence of such incidents by taking precautions in advance. On his return from abroad, the first thing our Hon. Prime Minister did was to visit the areas affected by the cholera

epidemic. I want to thank him for his prompt reaction, for making an on-the-spot visit and giving orders for the removal of garbage and setting up of more medical camps. But in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*...I want to say that this is not a political matter

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): We have made a mistake. Why are you looking at the things which are not worth seeing? *(Interruptions)*,

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Neither is this a joke nor is it a party matter. The Opposition should also have the same feelings as that of the ruling party. Even though this is a matter concerning the ruling party, we condemn it. This is the culture of our party. All that has happened could have been prevented if only advance precautions had been taken and the development work of the colonies could have been done in advance. I returned to Delhi today and saw all this in the news reports. A major incident in my constituency had kept me away from the capital. But I got to know something from the speeches of Shri Agarwal, Shri Indrajit and other hon. Members. There is a communication gap between the D.D.A. Delhi Metropolitan Council and the Group Housing Societies. But this responsibility should be shared by all. This is no time to start passing the buck. A large number of people have died due to this epidemic. It was a good gesture on the part of the Lt. Governor that he has resigned. The Government should note that all this has happened due to the negligence of its own officials. Exemplary punishment should be given to the persons found responsible for this incident to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future. I suggest that an inquiry be instituted to identify the negligent party in this tragic episode which has taken a toll of 200 persons. The Delhi Metropolitan Council is also responsible for this. It cannot escape its responsibility. The Mayor and the Commissioner are equally responsible. As this incident has happened in Shri Bhagat's constituency, he is taking some steps. The hon. Prime Minister also personally visited the affected areas. Why was this not done by the Mayor, Commissioner or the Metropolitan

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Council? The Prime Minister or the Ministry cannot do all the work. This work has to be handled by people working at the grass-root level. I condemn this attitude. The Government should take a decision in this regard.

I would also like to say something about West Bengal. This has happened in Gujarat also. About 7-8 days ago, 24 persons died of cholera in East Calcutta...*(Interruptions)*... This is the reason why I could not come to Delhi. In my own constituency, 1000 persons are down with paralysis after consuming adulterated rape-seed oil. Out of these, 400 are in hospital. I congratulate the hon. Health Minister Shri Moti Lal Vora for visiting my constituency, going around hospitals and assuring the state that whatever central assistance is needed will be given to them. Whatever happens in Delhi, comes to the notice of everybody since it is the capital city of the country but nothing is known about all that what happens elsewhere. I want to say that the country has not seen an incident of such horrific proportions after the Bhopal tragedy. I condemn what has happened in Delhi and also that what had taken place in Calcutta. The Central Health Minister, Shri Ajit Panja and Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi visited Calcutta but the Chief Minister of West Bengal could not spare even a single minute to visit the area. This is a matter of shame. So I want to say that...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

I did not disturb anyone. While I am speaking, why should they disturb me? Why are you not interested in your State also?...*(Interruptions)*... Don't disturb me...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): Nobody disturbed you while you are speaking. Why are you creating disturbance now?...*(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We have condemned what has happened in Delhi. We always condemn whatever deserves to be condemned...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Do not record.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I don't know why the hon. Members are getting agitated. I want to say about Delhi and Calcutta both. 24 persons died in Calcutta...*(Interruptions)*. We are very much concerned about that.

[English]

I come from that constituency. It is my moral duty to raise my peoples' voice here. That is why I am raising it...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Why are you interrupting when a lady member is speaking?...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Some hon. Member said in Bengali that I would never come to this House again because I am in a fighting mood all the time. Who is he to say that? Whether I come again or not, I do not mind, but I must raise my voice...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

Whether I will be again elected or not, depends on the people of my constituency. Actually, opposition is afraid of speaking the truth. I will speak the truth. They are saying these things, because Congress party is in power in Delhi, but I will speak about the State. Whatever happened in Calcutta is next only to Bhopal incident. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that even after his visit, a large number of people have been admitted to the hospitals in Behala, Tolliganj and Howrah...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

I am raising it because it concerns this Ministry. I do not have double standards.

**Not recorded.

What I am speaking is absolutely correct. If it is wrong, you can bring a motion against me. I am challenging him...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

When our friends were speaking, we listened to them patiently but now they are not giving us an opportunity to speak. Let me speak. If I am not allowed to speak where else would I give vent to my feelings. Can't we speak out about the happenings in the State. 200 persons died of Cholera, but in my constituency nearly one thousand people have paralysed...*(Interruptions)*. I request the hon. Minister of Health to look into it as well. A large number of new cases are being reported in the hospitals every day. You should enquire into the distribution of adulterated rapeseed oil in Calcutta. A C.B.I. inquiry should be conducted in this regard and the culprits should be punished...*(Interruptions)* without punishment, this adulteration can not be checked. I request you to give proper punishment.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI D.N. REDDY (Cuddapah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, prevention is better than cure; that is the dictum of the modern medicine. In most of the civilised and developed countries Cholera is eradicated and here in India in the year 1988, the fact that you have come across a great tragedy in the capital city of our country speaks for itself. It not only causes great anguish but creates sorrow at the negligence of the authorities to prevent such a tragedy and especially, when the Government has promised health for all by the end of the country. It should be taken as a joke like other slogans. Should we think that the Government is not at all intent upon fulfilling their slogans ?

Sir, the Cholera disease can be easily identified and easily controlled also. So, it is beyond my comprehension why the Government has taken nearly more than a month to take the complete satisfactory eradictory measures. It has not been controlled yet and it is still ranging. So many

deaths have occurred due to this negligence but it took quite a long time for the authorities to admit that Cholera is raging. It is the most tragic fact that the authorities were so careless that they did not take proper care and notify that there is Cholera raging and warn the people to be careful. Firstly, they said that it is a common Gastro-enteritis disease. Then they said that it is a very common manifestation in the monsoon season. It is a criminal negligence on the part of the authorities to have said so and misguided the public because Cholera can be diagnosed very easily. It is caused by a specific Bacillus which can be seen under the microscope. They ought to have diagnosed it long back. They should have taken precautionary measures immediately.

Much has been said about the Prime Minister's visit to the affected areas. I too am happy but does it mean that it requires the Prime Minister to see that the garbage is removed ? What is the Government doing all these days ? Does it mean if the Prime Minister had not visited that place the garbage would have remained there even though the conditions would have been so bad ? It speaks very bad of the Government and unfortunately for us the Prime Minister is abroad most of the days. Then we have to believe the dictum that nothing functions here when the Prime Minister is absent. There is no Government in Delhi if the Prime Minister is abroad. It comes to that. And you have admitted yourself when you are speaking so much of Prime Minister's visit there. The Health Minister ought to have visited that place ; the M.P. ought to have visited that place and seen that sewage is cleaned and garbage is removed long back.

Then, Sir, we have to come to another important point. New Delhi is a show piece ; my other colleague also mentioned it. 42 Square miles managed by a nominated body, NDMC is pampered here with a population of about 3 lakhs. The expenditure is about Rs. 130 crores. Compared to this, the rest of the Delhi including the slum areas is 1440 Square Km and has a population of nearly one crore is run by the Delhi Administration (DDA) and DMC with a Budget of Rs. 1200 crores. There is no coordination between

[Shri D.N. Reddy]

these bodies. This is the position. Nearly about 20 years back a number of refugees about 20 lakh people were dumped in the trans-Yamuna area without giving them any proper facilities. The Hon. Minister was telling us that the roads were laid, so many other things were done but we do not see anything there now. There is absolutely no facility. There is no drinking water facility and not even the primary sanitary facilities are provided. As they themselves have admitted, nothing moves till the Prime Minister arrives. Yesterday's newspaper stated that hundreds of lorries were carrying the garbage. It only shows that the sanitary facilities were not there probably for years, not months. The epidemic is purely due to the callousness and neglect of the persons concerned. And two factors stand out very prominently. Firstly, as I said before, there is absolutely no drinking water facility and the sewages were not cleaned for a long time and not even minimum primitive sanitary facilities were provided. Secondly, we are told that the water pipes were dug only upto a depth of 10 to 15 metres, whereas I am told that there is a condition that the minimum depth should be 30 metres. This is a very grave factor which should be taken note of and the health authorities should go into it and see as to what happened at that time when the wells were dug. 10 to 15 metres is such a shallow depth and the water at that depth gets contaminated with sewage waste, faecal material and other pollutants seeping into the water. I feel this must have been the first important factor responsible for this epidemic. In this connection, I also request the authorities to verify whether the bills had been submitted for 15 metres or 30 metres. This is a gross negligence on the part of the development authorities and people responsible for this must be brought to book.

Two sensible suggestions have been made by two of my colleagues. One is, after this tragedy subsides, there ought to be a judicial inquiry to fix responsibility upon those whose neglect and callousness led to this tragedy. I am afraid, so many people must have been involved. I am glad that Lieutenant Governor had taken a right decision to resign. I respect his

maturity and integrity. I am also glad to know that some action has been taken against some of the officials, though I feel many more must be there against whom action should be taken.

But, I would like to ask the Health Minister as to what his responsibility is. Are you not responsible to maintain health in this city of Delhi? Also, [what is the responsibility of the Government? It is no use shifting the blame or responsibility from one to the other. All those officials who are responsible for this terrible tragedy should be punished. The Minister must give a suitable reply to us, and assure us that this would not happen again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

DR. D.N. REDDY : You have given 15 minutes to that lady Member just because she was shouting. And here, you ring the bell after two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already seven o'clock and I cannot help it. Moreover, time allotted for your party is already over. Please conclude.

DR. D. N. REDDY : Yesterday, some of us had an opportunity to visit some of the affected colonies. We are shocked to see certain things there. The victims are not identified and the houses are not identified and disinfected. Dead bodies were handed over to the authorities. If the dead bodies are not burnt immediately, disease germs would spread the epidemic all over. So many precautionary measures such as disinfecting the houses, etc. should be taken immediately. Otherwise there will be a lot of contamination.

I visited the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where some of the patients are being treated. A doctor who does not want to disclose his name told us that many of the patients are kept there for two hours, given some saline and glucose and then discharged for want of accommodation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Health whether it is true and if so whether it is not a gross negligence on the

part of the Government not to provide sufficient accommodation to the patients. This is a very sorry state of affairs. You should see that all the patients are accommodated in the hospitals and kept there and treated till they are well. Two hours of stay in a hospital does not serve any purpose at all. The patients will go out and spread the epidemic still further.

Sir, this is not the end of the tragedy. There are two more diseases whose incubation period is a little longer than cholera. By the time you come to know about the diseases, they will be rampant. And these two diseases are typhoid and infective hepatitis. The incubation period for cholera is less, whereas the incubation period for the two diseases is a bit longer and you may not notice them now but if you do not take care, these two diseases also will assail the population. So, from now on you must take precautionary measures. These are two deadly diseases. This is very important.

19.00 hrs

Much has been said about lack of inoculation material. I must tell you just inoculation will not save the patient at all ; it is only a second line of defence. The first line of defence is clean water, clean toilets and keep everything clean. There should be no flies. There should be no dirty water anywhere. You should take care of all these things. Inoculation is not the only thing which can save us. I don't mean to say that you should not inoculate. There should be proper inoculation. But it is only a second line of defence. First you must take care of the first line of defence and then only you can come to inoculation,

Lastly, another colleague of mine, Mr. Thampan Thomas, has recommended that Delhi should be converted into a State. I know the political reason why the ruling party has been opposing this idea all along. Unless you convert Delhi into a State and develop it further, this calamity is bound to happen again. This has happened before and this is happening now. It must become a State—the Capital city. It should not have slums on the one side and then five-star hotels on the

other side. So, I would request the Government to ponder over all those things and see that such a ghastly tragedy does not occur again and pin the responsibility upon the people concerned. I can understand the anguish of the hon. Minister and MP of that area but I am really surprised that in spite of his visit to that area so many times, he could not get the sewage cleared and get pure water for them. I wonder what we can do in our own constituencies and especially a very important, influential and a Member who is very well aware of the conditions here could not get the things done all these years. How could hon. Bhagat neglect these things ?

So it is a matter of very great anguish to me that the city of Delhi is now suffering—from a disease which could have been prevented, if only precautionary measures were taken in time.....

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow it go on record. Harish Rawat

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) .
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not only a matter of deep regret but also of shame that two hundred children have died of cholera in Delhi. We have fallen from people's esteem not only in our country, but also in the whole world. If we look into the matter in depth we will find that those people are to be blamed who do not have to face the House. It is the hon. Minister who has to face the ordeal in the House. Nobody is going to be satisfied, if action is taken against only one officials of D.D.A or the Corporation. It will not serve any purpose. I urge the Government to lay on the table of the House, the report of the committee which was headed by the Secretary, Urban Development, Shri Sukhthanker. For an in depth study of the report a committee consisting of senior officials or senior politicians should be constituted, who can see as to how far has it spread and how the problem could be solved. A provision should be made to punish every guilty person. Mr. Deputy

**Not recorded

[Shri Harish Rawat]

Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of deep regret that the administration woke up only after the Hon. Prime Minister visited the area. Although the news that Shri Bhagat had also asked the administration to take the necessary measures, appeared in the Press well before the Hon. Prime Minister's visit but it seemed as if the administration was asleep and was only fulfilling the formalities. Today, Shri Motilal Vora has to answer for the misdeeds of others, although the actual fault is not of the Ministry of Health, but of the M.C.D and D.D.A. The garbage in the streets of the affected area has not heaped in one day. Every year D.D.A. gives crores of rupees to the contractors to remove the garbage. The hon. Minister should state how many crores have been given to the contractor for lifting the garbage so far. In fact the dirt was never removed from there but was dumped in another place and the money was pocketed by the engineers and contractors jointly. The same is true of M.C.D. also. I would request Shri Santosh Mohan Dev to check whether the garbage removing trucks of M.C.D are of 1949-50 model. They cannot lift garbage even once and still they were pressed into service by M.C.D. and paid for it. A large number of persons are on the muster-rolls but only half of them are present. God knows where that money goes? It is regretful that such things are taking place in Delhi. I was distressed to read the news that the Hon. Prime Minister had to give funds from his relief fund to the administration to get means to combat cholera. Where on the one hand I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for his generosity, I am not able to understand what the administration was doing for such a long time since the disease spread and what steps or facilities did it provide to the people. It is not right to shift our responsibilities to the Ministry of Health when children are dying there on such a large scale. Besides, the Lt. Governor, the Vice-Chairman of D.D.A. and the Commissioner of M.C.D., some politicians have also to own responsibility for this incident, whether they are here or in the Municipal Corporation. They should own responsibility and ask forgiveness from the people of Delhi, because by merely paying lip service to those who are dead we

cannot save ourselves from this disgrace. The hon. Minister should state in his reply whether the Government is going to give compensation to the poor parents whose children have died and what action is being taken against those who are responsible for this incident. We claim that we have wiped out cholera. But if cholera spreads out in Delhi, we cannot overlook or leave the matter there

With these words I support the proposals put up by Shri Indrajit Gupta and others.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the Minister, Mr. Vora.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamiluk) : Sir, the Minister of Urban Development should reply.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA) : I am thankful to Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri V.C. Jain, Dr. T. Kalpana Devi, Shri Amal Datta, Shri Bharat Singh, Shri Thampan Thomas, Shri J.P. Agarwal, Shri Khurshid Ahmed Choudhry, Dr. G.S. Rajhans, Shri Manoj Pandey, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Dr. D.N. Reddy and Shri Harish Rawat, all those who have given very valuable suggestions during this discussion.

Shri H.K.L. Bhagat has told very rightly that he had visited the area times without number, and by visiting the area he has done a lot in the area, because it belongs not only to his constituency but to the other area wherever he has visited, a lot has been done. So it is wrong to say that after the visit of Shri H.K.L. Bhagat nothing has been done or nothing has been done in the last one or two years. From 1975 to 1977, we know that these colonies came up; and after that, what has been done, this is being told by every hon member.

Shri Indrajit Gupta has said that the danger is not over I quite agree with him. I also agree with all the hon. members who said that the danger is not

over When the danger is not over, we should be fully alert to avert this danger in the near future and see that nothing should happen. We should be fully aware of this and all measures should be taken accordingly.

I visited the hospitals on 19th of July. I also visited trans Yamuna area ; and along with me a number of officers of the DDA also went After visiting the area, I rang up Shri Bhagatji to say that these things need immediate attention and whatever is possible from the Health Ministry side, we are prepared to do and extend immediate assistance keeping in view the requirements of the people of that area. Accordingly, the Health Department made available these vaccines. After making these vaccines available between 1.7.88 and 31.7.88, 13.21 lakh people had been inoculated.

After the visit of the hon. Prime Minister, much has been done there. He visited the area on 22nd of July, 1988. We are really thankful to him definitely, because after his visit the momentum came and everybody got alert. Between 23rd of July 1988 and 31st of July, 1988, 11 lakh and 74 doses were given (Interruptions) I quite agree that 1.15 lakh doses were given in between 1st of July and 22nd of July. I do not disagree because it is a fact and I do not want to hide it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should take the responsibility...

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Shri Indrajit Gupta has very rightly said that after cholera there is definitely a danger of typhoid. Between 23rd of July and 31st of July, 1.27 lakh doses had been given .. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you allow him to finish it ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There are discrepancies. So, I want to seek clarification. He is just reading out the figures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't disturb him in the middle

(Interruptions)

SHRI RMAL DATTA : Eleven lakh doses of vaccines of cholera had been given ... (Interruptions).

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : When the Minister is replying, he should listen to him patiently .. (Interruptions).

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Let him hear me first. I would try to reply whatever he has said. But let him hear me also... (Interruption).

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am not going away. I am just wanting to tell you, because a number of hon. Members have said that we are short of vaccine. We are not at all short of vaccine.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You say that you have given only one lakh shots... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Shri Harish Rawat, I said this because Shri Amal Datta wanted to know. I would like to clarify that we were never short of vaccine and we gave 18 lakh 83 thousand vaccines of Cholera.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What about typhoid.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : For Typhoid, 2 lakh 60 thousand adult dosages were given to M C D, and Delhi administration

[English]

For the children, we have given 7.10 lakh doses to the MCD and Delhi Administration for inoculation. So, this has been done.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have they got enough inoculators ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am informed that they had inoculators ; and after that our department provided about 60 jet guns to the MCD and Delhi Administration and with those injectors we were able

[Shri Moti Lal Vora]

to inoculate 13,21,000 persons in the affected areas where this outbreak of cholera and gastro-enteritis took place. I may also tell you, that we requested the UNESCO for help and we have received a message that 23 more jet guns will be received, and they will be made available to the Delhi Administration, and the MCD by tomorrow so that we will be able to do more inoculations. After cholera, as you have said, hepatitis is also not ruled out, because all these diseases go side by side. That again is being taken care of by the Health Department through the MCD and the Delhi Administration. This, we have already done...*(Interruptions)*. Please hear me.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How much water is being supplied ?...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : As long as you are commenting, I will not try to go along. I will be here. I am not going anywhere.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am in a hurry to go.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : You may be in a hurry, but I am not in a hurry...*(Interruptions)*.

Because you have raised a number of questions, you have raised important points, I am answering.

I want to tell Mr. Amal Datta that today, on 1-8-1988 one lakh doses of cholera vaccine and 1.3 lakh doses of typhoid, for children, have been supplied to the MCD area, in addition to 18.83 lakh cholera vaccine doses already supplied.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are they not using the combined vaccine which is known as TABC, instead of giving them separately ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : We have been advised by the doctors that these combined vaccines are not to be used, because there was a suspicion, why this cholera vaccine was not effective...*(Interruptions)*.

I may read out an expert committee's report for a minute, and I think Mr. Amal Datta will agree with me.

“An expert team constituted by the Director General of Health Services gave their opinion in January, 1988 that currently available cholera vaccine has been shown to provide partial and brief protection in controlled field trials when given in two doses at an interval of one month.”

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : One month ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

“As an adjunct to the other important control measures, cholera inoculation could be undertaken in two doses schedule if the population threatened is limited and it is feasible to administer vaccine to nearly all the threatened persons and particularly wherever there is disruption of normal living and breakdown of environmental provisions.”

So, this vaccine is not useless ; it is useful and we have to give second dose after a month or so, because in these inoculations that is not also ruled out.

As regards the supply of drugs in Delhi Halogen tablets, ORS, Tetracyclin and others have been made available in most of the shops in Delhi and we are making all arrangements because these were not readily available, generally cholera vaccines were not immediately available in the market after the or the outbreak of this gastro-enteritis. We have made arrangements not only in the shops but in all the eighty C.G.H.S. dispensaries, where we have got seven hundred doctors. We have supplied five hundred doses of vaccine to each dispensary so that people living in any part of Delhi, if they need, can get the vaccine without any delay and without any difficulty.

About health education, Mr. Datta please hear me, eightyone teams of doctors interns and medical students and visiting the affected areas and distributing ORS packets to protect the vulnerable population from developing dehydration and diarrhoea (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How many packets ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Two lakhs ninety four thousand packets have been given on and we have again given an assurance to MCD that whatever number they need, we will be in a position to supply ORS because it is very very useful for fighting the outbreak of gastro-enteritis and cholera.

One hon. Member has pointed out that potable water. Forty four resettlement colonies are there and total population in these resettlement colonies is twelve lakhs. Thirty five colonies have already been covered with potable supply of water. Pipelines have been laid in three more colonies—Sunder Nagri, Silampur Phase I and Phase II. These are being tested, flushed and repaired whenever necessary. Handpumps are likely to be commissioned very soon. Ten handpumps have already been set up and they have been tested also. One hundred more handpumps are likely to be completed by 25th of August 1988 and another five hundred to be completed within three or four months.

Some hon. Members have mentioned about the unauthorised regularised colonies. Five hundred and thirty nine unauthorised regularised colonies are there. Out of which, 382 colonies have been covered with potable supply of water. Sixty of the one hundred and fifty seven colonies are served with treater water through public hydrants and the remaining ninety seven through tankers and syntex mounted on trucks. Over three hundred unauthorised colonies are being served through tankers and syntex tanks mounted on trucks. They have got 652 JJ Clusters. Besides these clusters, they are being managed in tanks and water is supplied in these colonies through tankers. Then, there was a question about removal of garbage. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Please tell us how much quantity of water per person you are supplying through tankers. In these colonies, there is no other source of supply...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Datta, you are correct. We are supplying potable water which is drinkable, in these colonies according to their requirement. I cannot say just now what is the total quantity of water is being supplied...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There should be some norm issued by the Health Department, say ten litres or fifteen litres per person must be supplied- (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vora, please carry on.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am not disagreeing with you, but I have no information as to how much quantity we are supplying—whether 15 litres or 10 litres .. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already accepted that he is not having the information. There is no point in stretching it too far...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Do not lose your temper because when we went there, they showed us a tanker where 25 people were already queueing just after the tanker came. They said : Look at the condition, how much water this tanker is carrying and how many people are coming for water ? For 5000 people one tanker is not enough. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I have said that we are supplying potable water through tankers (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : What is the quantity of water required per person ? (*Interruption*)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Potable water is the most important factor ...(*Interruption*)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : You are giving one tanker in one colony ..
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Without getting so much angry, you can ask me any point- Here I am telling you that I do not know exactly...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are hiding facts...

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : No, we are not hiding anything from you, my dear friend. I said, the quantity which is required...(Interruptions)

I just want to know what he requires from me.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are the Health Minister. Can you not say what is the quantity of water which is required by the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Can you say how much quantity of water do you take daily ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Let the Health Minister say, according to his Department how much quantity of water is required per person to be supplied and how much is he supplying?... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : At the moment, we are concerned to supply potable water. We are not concerned whether we are supplying... (Interruption) We are not supplying one glass, two glass or three glass of water... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How do you know that you are supplying that much of water ? (Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Anyway, I will give the information as required.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You please collect the information.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I will definitely collect the information. (Interruption).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already said that he does not have the information. He will collect it and pass it later on. What can you do now ?

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA ; Let the debate be postponed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When the Minister says that, you have to accept it. Please sit down...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : As regards the removal of garbage, total garbage consisting of 6000 trucks has been removed. Though we have removed all the garbage which was in the backlog, every day we have to remove 60 to 70 trucks of garbage...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Did you personally go to these colonies after the removal of the garbage ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I have myself visited these colonies. After that I gave instructions to the MCD and the DDA people... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You visited two or three colonies... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : As regards septic tanks, out of 1985 septic tanks 1283 septic tanks have already been desilted. And the remaining 612 septic tanks should be within a week's time.

Regarding desilting of drains, my hon. friend wanted to know the length of drains desilted. Out of a total of 1,234 kilometres of drains, the length of drains desilted is 1,064 kilometres. I think you won't disagree.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I totally disagree.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : You please agree with me. We have desilted this much. The balance is to be completed within a week's time.

Regarding construction of Sulabh Shau-chalayas...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : All these are fabricated figures.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : The figures are not fabricated. You can visit the area and easily see that much has been done. Still we have to do a lot... (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I invite Mr. Amal Datta to come with me and visit the area. So far I do not know how much area he has visited. He will not be able to tell how much water he is consuming. Not only tankers have been going but there are other sources of water supply also. He is trying to create mathematical confusion here.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am not creating any confusion. I strongly resent that kind of an attitude. I wanted to say that whatever is being said is not correct.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I have myself said I am not satisfied. Much more remains to be done... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : That you do not say. That is the problem.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not called any other hon. Member to speak. What they say will not go on record...

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed any other Member to speak. Therefore, whatever they say will not go on record.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Actually, Sir, if the sense is lost, then what is the need for discussing all these things in this august House? Why are we wasting our time sitting here up to 7.30 p.m., hearing all these answers? More than two hundred people have died and this is the response from the Government and this is the response from the Treasury Benches... (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You mend your attitude first.. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Sir, I was telling about *Sulabi Shauchalayas*. It has been decided to construct two complexes of eighty seats each in everyone of the forty-four resettlement colonies by the end of November, 1988. Steps are being taken to ensure the compliance well in time. In the hospitals I have visited—as some hon. Members wanted to know—we have made adequate and all possible arrangements to treat the patients of gastro-enteritis and all medicines have been made available there. There is no storage of medicines. So, our primary duty at the moment is to treat those people who come to the hospitals, and to make the areas clean where these colonies are situated. So, these are the primary things to be done at the moment. Whatever quantity of water they are needing is being supplied. We are supplying water through tankers also... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You said you will collect the information and now again you are saying you are giving sufficient water. You do not know how much you are giving.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : We are supplying water through tankers. About the quantity of water I will collect the information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You collect the information first... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA ; So, Sir I have come before the House and I have replied to almost all the questions that the hon. Members had raised. We are very sorry that these deaths have occurred because of gastro-enteritis and cholera. We are taking all possible steps to see that in future all these things should not happen because over what has happened now everybody is sorry and nobody is happy. Everybody expressed his or her sorrow and anguish. So, I join with you in this and after the visit of Prime Minister

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many things have been done and I assure this august House, from our side, nothing will be left undone. We will try to do our best in the areas where these people reside. Whatever is to be done, the M.C.D. and the Delhi Administration have taken all these measures. We hope that in the coming days, all these things which I have mentioned will be looked into in full speed and we will be able to solve the problem.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Since you are going to collect information on some other points which you are perhaps not in a position to say now, please collect that information. Could also please collect one other information? How many children have died among the people who have died in these areas? There is a report that a very large number of children have

died there. I would like to know the number of children who have died. If you don't know, please collect that information also.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : That is all, Sir, my submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18.37 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 2, 1988/Sravana 11, 1910 (Saka)