

**SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazari-
bagh)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want a clarification here. He mentioned about a basis and K. K. Roy Committee also recommended that instead of that a fresh beginning should be made. But I want to know whether there was any representative of workers in the K.K. Roy Committee? If not, what could be the reasons thereof? Similarly, we expect that we will have a welfare board in future but one cannot say for sure that it will not be controlled by a person in the democratic set up, whose order we will have to carry out? Since it is an important question and we feel concerned about our future, therefore I want to know from the hon. Minister what would be the basis in future?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to both the hon. Members for their suggestions. First of all I want to inform them that since the Committee was a one-man-committee, therefore the question of taking other representatives does not arise. Secondly, I have always requested the hon. Members that they should come to a conclusion themselves and I do not want them to wriggle out of this responsibility. When I talk of the participation of the workers, it also includes the responsibility of all the workers of the country and their representatives. They have a responsibility towards their country and they should shoulder it. The entire coal-sector is their and they have been given as much public money as they demanded. Now, it is their responsibility to run it and make it economically viable by increasing production. Then from the profits they might utilize as much amount as they like on the worker's welfare. This is the only basis we want. When it is adopted by the entire country, the shape of public sector will undergo a radical change.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE STEPS TO CONTAIN AIDS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOH-SINA KIDWAI) : The House would be aware that we had earlier informed the House in response to a question from a member that no authentic case of AIDS had so far been reported from our country. The nation-wide surveillance studies for AIDS disease and AIDS virus infection initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research has revealed that while it is still true that authentic cases of AIDS disease have not yet been found in India, evidence has just now been obtained of the presence of AIDS virus infection in 6 females in Tamil Nadu who have been known to have promiscuous heterosexual behaviour. The situation is under close and constant surveillance. The Indian Council of Medical Research has already established AIDS Surveillance Centres in 7 places in the country—Pune, Vellore, New Delhi, Delhi, Srinagar, Madras and Calcutta. The number of Surveillance Centres is proposed to be immediately increased to cover all parts of the country adequately, eventually leading to the establishment of one centre in each State. A separate cell is being established in the Directorate General of Health Services which will work in close liaison with a Cell in the ICMR which is already functioning. An intensive educational campaign about the nature of AIDS infection, how it is transmitted and what measures should be taken to prevent the spread of infection is being mounted. The medical profession in the country both in public and private sector is being mobilised along with the public through a nation-wide educational campaign. Scientific institutions have been identified and are already engaged in work leading to the identification of the virus in precise terms, its relationship to related AIDS viruses prevalent in other parts of the world. The required number of test kits are being made available to the Surveillance Centres. At the same time the 6 cases identified as carrying the infection are being attended to with the cooperation of the State Government to ensure that the infection

does not spread from these sources. Instructions have been issued to stop the import of blood and blood products from outside the country without certification of their freedom from AIDS virus contamination. Advance action has been initiated to have Indian scientists trained in sophisticated methods of investigation of this disease and it would no longer be necessary to have the confirmatory test done abroad.

I am making this statement to enlist the cooperation of the hon. Members and through them, the public at large in mounting a national effort for the control of AIDS virus infection. I would like to assure the House that our scientists are

fully geared to face the task and it is to their credit that in such a vast country like ours, they have been able to trace down these cases at this stage of infection without any outward manifestation of disease. We are fully geared to face the task before us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The house stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 30, 1986.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha : hen adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 30, 1986/Vaisakha 10, 1908 (Saka)