

is a very bold step, but so far as the railways are concerned, the Hon. Minister has just now replied that first class passes had been issued to 136 persons. In this connection, I want to know whether there is any criterion for giving these passes? Were only these persons entitled to these passes and not others? Many of our freedom fighters are living in the villages and the information relating to the facilities being given by the railways do not reach them. Therefore, I want to know whether some arrangements would be made whereby the information regarding the facilities being given by the railways could reach them?

SHRI BANSI LAL : There are about 400,000 people who are entitled to the passes out of which 1,29,000 get pension from the central Government and 2,75,000 or 3,00,000 persons get pension from the State Governments. Therefore, the department which grants them pension will have to bear the fare on this account. This case has been referred to the Home Ministry. The freedom fighters have not been refused this facility. The matter is still under consideration.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I had raised this question initially, Shri Sethi did not agree to it at that time. At that time, the then Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said that there were only a very few freedom fighters alive now and that we should give this benefit to them, so that they could see how much the country had progressed. Are we waiting for the day when even some of these handful of persons may also depart from here?

SHRI BANSI LAL : We are not waiting for that. A decision will soon be taken in this regard.

[English]

Hospitals for Children Suffering from Polio etc.

*884. **DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one out of every 4,000 children below the age of 9 years is suffering from polio and about 2,70,000 such cases of polio are reported annually;

(b) whether Government have any positive plans to prevent the incidence of polio and also the incidence of diphtheria, pertussis, tuberculosis and typhoid fever; and

(c) whether Government propose to start special hospitals for children only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Precise estimates of current incidence of polio in the country are not available. During 1983 the State Health Authorities reported about 21 thousand cases to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence.

(b) Immunization services against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and typhoid fever are being provided under the Expanded Programme on Immunization.

(c) There is no such proposal in the Central Sector.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Sir, recently the polio vaccine supplied by some of the foreign countries has been found to be ineffective in substance. There were reports that many eminent doctors had found them ineffective and also reported this fact to the Government. More-over, there is no sufficient cold storage to keep the vaccine in all the hospitals. Sufficient quantity is also not improved with the result there is a dearth of not only polio vaccines but also Triple Antigen vaccines in rural areas. It is very important that these important drugs are supplied to the rural hospitals where the incidence of polio is frighteningly very large.

Regarding part (c) of the Question, special health service is absolutely necessary in schools to safeguard the health of school going children. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, the services are available only in big hospitals in Vizag and Hyderabad. I will request the Hon. Minister to see whether he is able to extend the services to at least up to district centre level.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The services are available not only at the district level but they are up to the primary health Centre level because at the PHC, there is a freezer and at the district level, there is a deep freezer. So, we store the vaccines at the district level and then pass them on to the

primary health centres where again they are kept in the cold storage for a number of days. And then, the vaccine goes to the sub-centre and at the village level. Therefore, there is a network of the sub-centre, primary health centre, district hospital and referral centre which are supplying vaccines.

Regarding the complaint made by the Hon. Member, we have not come across any such case where the vaccine was found ineffective. It may be the case where proper doses are not given at the proper time because it has to be given at certain intervals and if it is not done, it may prove ineffective also.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : As a doctor, I know that. (*Interruptions.*) Unless the polio vaccine is kept in refrigeration or cold storage, the vaccine becomes useless. Even if it is exposed in the room temperature for a few minutes, it becomes ineffective. There is no point in supplying vaccine which is not effective or useful.

More-over, it is important to import the vaccine in sufficient quantity and keep them in cold storage even in the village sub-centre. The plea that it has to be transported from one hospital to another and therefore the vaccine becomes ineffective is not valid. It cannot be a sufficient reason for supplying ineffective polio vaccines.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, it has been done. In the Seventh Plan, we are going to give these vaccines to all the children. There will be immunization programme.

As I have said, cold storage facility is available at the district level and at the primary health-centre level because there is a refrigerator. So, it can be preserved there. It has to be preserved in a cold atmosphere and that facility is available at the primary health centre. Every primary health centre is located where the population is of 5,000.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : There is no cold storage.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, prevention is better than cure. These diseases are dangerous and they are causing permanent disability to children in the society. Has the Government got any idea of preventing the

diseases by providing proper sanitation, safe drinking water etc. ? In rural areas, people are still going for open defecation and there are no proper conditions in the area. Even drinking water is not available. In order to prevent these diseases which are going to cause permanent disability in the rural population, has the Government of India formulated any scheme for the preventive measures ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir, our National Health Policy is very clear. Firstly it talks about the prevention of disease and then, if necessary, treatment and cure also. But this is a State programme and the Government of India is giving them assistance by way of aid and advice to the States. We give finance as well as technical guidance. Other things are also provided by the Government of India. But the primary work, the implementation, is being done by the State Governments. The Hon. Member has rightly said that rural water supply also has some connection with this because if pure potable water is available, then many of the diseases can be avoided and Government is working on these schemes with the PWD and other concerned Departments.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Just now the Hon. Minister has said that in all the primary health centres the refrigeration system is there to preserve the preventive medicines for children's diseases.

May I know whether the Hon. Minister stands by the accuracy of his statement ? Has the Hon. Minister enquired into the matter ? At least, in my knowledge, not a single primary health centre in West Bengal has got the refrigeration system to preserve the preventive medicines. Is it not the fault of the Government ?

I think the Hon. Minister is not accurate in his facts and by saying this, the Hon. Minister is again provoking the people to demonstrate.

Will the Hon. Minister correct his statement or will the Hon. Minister enquire into the matter ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Hon. Minister.

(Translation)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : They are not there anywhere in U. P.... ..

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard you.

[English]

Let us hear him. Beware of your answers.

{Translation}

I have, therefore, cautioned also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : The Hon. Minister's answer is misleading.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is no question of misleading...

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Will you please hear me ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Beware of your officers, Mr. Minister.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is no question of misleading of the Ministers by the Officers. I said in the beginning that health is a State subject and Government of India can provide only funds. It is for the State Government to implement it. In a particular State.....

(Interruptions)

In some States, if it is not done, what can we do ? We can provide funds and we can request the State Governments to do it...

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That is the only thing and they can bring it to the notice of the State Government.

Electrification of Rail Lines

*885. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the State-wise break-up of electrification of rail lines ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has been most neglected area in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) A Statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement		
States	Already electrified as on 31.03. 1985 Route Kilometres	Electrification in progress/ sanctioned Route Kilometres
Andhra Pradesh	608	611
Bihar	877	611
Gujarat	524	93
Haryana	74	...
Karnataka	...	92
Maharashtra	789	889
Madhya Pradesh	473	1,965
Orissa	376	...
Rajasthan	22	557
Tamil Nadu	426	104
Uttar Pradesh	942	309
West Bengal	1,240	...
Union Territory of Delhi	89	...
Total	6,440	5,231

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : In Andhra Pradesh, Vijaywada-Balarsha line is pending electrification for the past so many years.

Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say whether this line will be completed by the end of this year. The Hon. Minister has given a list of some of the railway lines which are being electrified this year. I would like to know whether Vijaywada-Balarsha railway line is included in this list ?