

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Thursday, April 18, 1985/Chaitra 28,  
1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, where had you been ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I was absent due to you, Sir. You accepted the resignation of Mr. Sharad Pawar. That is why I had to go for election campaign.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : He has lost his voice.

MR. SPEAKER : He has been using it beyond limits, all the time.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Fortification of Salt to Cure Goitre and Anaemia

\*486. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal suggested by the ICMR to double fortification of salt to cure goitre and anaemia is nearing finalisation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) A formula for

the fortification of salt with both iron and iodine has been developed by the National Institute of Nutrition under ICMR. Salt fortified according to the new formula has to be tested.

An appropriate view would be taken after the details of the tests are available.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : According to a report in the *Patriot* of 27th March, 1985, there is a difference of opinion between the Director-General of ICMR and the Additional Director of Health Services on the efficacy of the ICMR formula ...

MR. SPEAKER : Is it not the beauty of a democratic set-up ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Really it is a beauty, Sir.

Since both goitre and anaemia are causing great harm to public health and since the ICMR formula is for the cure of both the diseases by double fortification, will the Government take a third expert opinion before arriving at an appropriate view ?

[Translation]

SMT. MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the conditions prevailing in the country we find that anaemia is found in almost every age group and is causing great harm to public health, people are getting weaker day by day. It has been noticed from the available figures that 40 to 60 per cent pre-school children are suffering from anaemia and 25 to 30 per cent women in their reproduced age group suffer from anaemia. About 50 per cent of the people of this country are suffering from anaemia. Iron is necessary for treatment of anaemia and similarly goitre can be cured with iodine. Now we are going to formulate a scheme of fortification of salt with iron. We are taking iodised salt daily. It is the cheapest salt.

In other states, iron is mixed in the flour and bread produced from such flour is eaten

by all, but there is nothing of type in our country in which we could mix this iron. At present we are giving iron tablets to pregnant mothers. But if iron is mixed in salt, a small quantity of it could be taken by the people, which would be able to cure anaemia. That is why studies in this respect were made in Hyderabad and Calcutta etc. In Saangrul area of West Bengal, which Smt. Geeta Mukherjee is representing here, it was found that after eating such salt, the women suffering from anaemia gaumed by three gms. This shows that we can do this work. But before we taken such a decision, we have to examine all the aspects and that is why we have undertaken studies. I think it would take some time. We have already fortification of salt before taking a decision, which would take some time.

So far as iodine is concerned, our Government have decided to iodise the entire edible salt by 1990 A.D. (Interruptions)

We have started this work after obtaining experts opinion and there is no difference of opinion at all between I.C.M.R. and Director General in this respect.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It was reported in the Press. So they should have contradicted it.

MR. SPEAKER : Now it has been.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is the patriotic version.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Maybe. My second supplementary.

I would like to know whether the Government is aware that addition of hydrogen per-oxide to milk causes goitre and also of the weighty complaints made on the floor of the House here. Last time during question-hour a question was put whether hydrogen peroxide is used in the Amul milk and hon Minister Mr. Makwana himself replied to that question. He said that the milk supplied by DMS does not contain hydrogen peroxide but he did not answer about Amul milk. So, in view of that, I want to know whether the government did conduct

any inquiry into the question of the presence of hydrogen peroxide in Amul milk and if they did not, will they conduct an inquiry into this whether Amul and such other products which are used very widely contain hydrogen peroxide which is injurious to health ?

[Translation]

SMT. MOHSINA KIDWAI : Just now Geetsi mentioned about adding hydrogen peroxide to milk. I would like to tell her that according to the Act, such addition is prohibited. It cannot be added even to Amul milk. (Interruptions).

She also mentioned about goitre. It is connect that there are many highly endemic areas where goitre is prevalent. Iodised salt is required to cure this disease. Iodised salt instead of common salt is being utilised in the areas which have been declared highly endemic areas. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is not iodine.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : You are asking about the presence of hydrogen peroxide in milk.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Whether you will make an inquiry into the presence of hydrogen peroxide in Amul milk and other products.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : I was telling that under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act it is prohibited. So how can they mix it ?

MR. SPEAKER : So there is no question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Are they contemplating conducting any inquiry ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a running debate.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I have not taken any time at all. I just want

to know whether they have conducted any inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question. Why should there be any inquiry when there is nothing about it ? It is already prohibited. No question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
How is it that there can be no question ?

MR. SPEAKER : Because it cannot be as it is prohibited. There will be an inquiry if there is a complaint. There is no complaint. So there cannot be any question. It is a hypothetical question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : \*

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHAN-  
DARI : Goitre is rampant in Sikkim also. What steps have the Government taken to help the State Government to combat this disease ?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : As I have already said, there are certain areas in which this goitre is prevalent. So we have identified the endemic areas and we are supplying iodised salt to these areas because that is the only remedy for this disease.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :  
The Minister has just replied that ICMR still conducting the tests. I would like to know from the Minister whether she is aware of the fact that Tata Chemicals have already developed the technology of iodised salt. The solution of the formulae is a universally prescribed formulae. As per the Federal law of the United States granular potassium iodide is dissolved in a partially saturated (to prevent micro-biological growth) sodium chloride solution. Add a small quantity of sodium bicarbonate, to increase PH and a small quantity of dextrose to retard oxidation of the potassium iodide. This is the universal formulae accepted by all the scientists. If so, what prevents the government to accept

this formulae and bring it in the market immediately ? May also know the total number of goitre affected teenagers in the country ? According to the International Bulletin it is 30 percent in India. The hon. Minister may assure the House that iodized salt will be available in the market as early as possible or how long will it take.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Sir, in highly endemic areas around 40 million persons are affected with goitre. There are two things. First to iodize the common salt and second fortification of salt with iron and iodine. We are iodizing salt for highly endemic areas and we propose to iodize all the common salt by 1990 for full consumption in our country. We have amended the law also.

#### Steps to Achieve 'One Child Per Family' Objective

\*487. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state :

(a) what steps Government propose to take to achieve 'one child per family' objective in coming years to restrict population explosion ; and

(b) whether any incentive scheme is contemplated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The present policy of the Government is to promote a two child family norm. However, Government are considering to extend to one child family the same compensation and incentives as are presently available for families which limit their family size to two/more than two children.

AN HON. MEMBER : I think members of Parliament are exempted.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not apply retrospectively.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR : There are certain sections of population in India like Parsis