

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Thursday, April 30, 1987/Vaisakha 10,
1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Always protected Mr. Rao. Just like the Chakravayuh.

[*Translation*]

He always sits there

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): It is to keep a vigilant eye.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr Speaker Sir, there is only one Narasimha in this world' who is sitting with three ladies.

MR. SPEAKER: I am searching for the fourth.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Rise in Malaria Incidence

*861. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Malaria incidence has shown an abnormal rise during the last 3-4 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following specific steps are being taken to control the incidence of malaria:

- 1 To contain the transmission of malaria, residual insecticidal spray is being carried out in areas where Annual Parasite Incidence (API) is 2 and above
- 2 Stress has been laid for regular fortnightly surveillance in all malarious areas of the country
3. Laboratory service has been decentralised at the Primary Health Centre for prompt examination of blood smears and administration of radical treatment without any time-lag.
4. Drug distribution centres and Fever Treatment Depots are functioning in the remote areas of the country to make available anti-malaria drugs to the fever cases. To contain *P falciparum* strain, a *P falciparum* Containment Programme is functioning in the problem areas

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: The mosquito menace is the main reason for spread of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. I come from a rural area. When we talk of mosquito menace, only big cities like, Delhi, Bombay, Madras Calcutta etc. come to the notice of the Government. In rural villages, we see ponds of dirty water particularly in those areas where scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other down-trodden people are habitated. Without eliminating the mosquito breeding sites, we cannot control malaria. I would like to know what measures the Government propose to take for the permanent elimination of mosquito breeding sites all over the country.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: We are all working on simple and inexpensive method of control of mosquito breeding. Community participation is involved in this particular programme. We have had experiments particularly in Khera district of Gujarat where community enthusiasm was used for the introduction of developmental schemes like social forestry, improved chulhas, soap pits etc. A similar demonstration was made by the Vector Control Research Centre for control of filariasis at Pondicherry. We are encouraged by these two demonstrations and the integrated Vector Control Programme has been identified in our main project.

The strategy is being extended to 9 other field stations for malaria control and one for filaria control in other States also.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Sir, what I would like to know from the Minister is, because it is still at the experiment stage, as she said just now, what measures have been taken or is there any master plan to eliminate permanently these malaria breeding sites and whether you have given any assistance to any State Government or any State Government has come forward to eliminate all these mosquitoes breeding sites because you cannot control malaria unless you eliminate mosquitoes breeding sites. In rural areas, particularly where the tribals and other scheduled

caste people live, these malaria cases are reported in quite a larger number. It is our experience that only affluent people of the society get the benefit of these medicines and other facilities provided by the Government. As is well known, prevention is better than cure, I would like to know as to what master plan you are going to have to eliminate mosquitoes breeding sites.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, as I said in my reply, we have launched a National Malaria Eradication Programme to contain the disease. In rural area DDT, FCH, BSC Malathion are sprayed to kill the mosquito population and in urban areas mainly anti-larval are used to control mosquito breeding. These insecticides are sprayed during the transmission period inside all the houses and cattle sheds where the mosquitoes breed. In co-operation with the State Government necessary steps are being taken to erase malaria in the rural areas.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, besides the Health Minister, Shri Jagdish Tytler is also here.

MR SPEAKER: Does he carry malaria?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, I am referring to a textile area in Delhi which falls in his constituency. This textile area is in front of Swatantra Bharat Mill. The other day I went there and found that mosquitoes are on rampage there. I never suspected such a situation. I wonder the mosquitoes are also politically motivated. I want to know from the Minister, if there is any civic authority to see that the people are saved there from the attack of the mosquitoes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): There is a basic difference in what the question is about and what the supplementary is about. Please listen. All mosquitoes do not carry malaria. Only some do, others are in a way good because they give

us some music also in the night. So, it is this *P. falciparum* which is the villain of the peace. It is not as if the whole country, every village, every town, every semi-urban area is full of *falciparum*. It is not so. There are certain areas, certain pockets, and it is well known that by 1965 - within a period of 12 or 13 years - we have eradicated malaria from this country, i.e. we have eradicated the malaria carrying mosquitoes in this country and rendered every thing incapable of any spreading. But in the maintenance stage, because of certain difficulties or because of certain negligence let us say, it has come back to the attack phase. And, now it is going down from the attack phase to the maintenance phase. In the last ten years, there has been a perceptible improvement in the control of malaria and in the control of vector also. Now, there is a new approach. The approach so far was to spray and also to treat the patients. Now the new approach experimented in Khera District and found to be quite efficacious is that in view of the fact that the mosquito is likely to develop immunity, we have to do something else. The approach is to start at the other end and see whether we can stop mosquito from breeding at all. That is the experiment done in Khera. Naturally, the experiment has to be done for a few years. It cannot be done overnight. Now the results are encouraging and we are on the point of making more and more areas experiment with the same. But the crux of the matter is that it does not rest with the Government of India; it does not rest with the State Government; and it does not rest with the district authorities. It rests with the people of the area. So, essentially this programme starts with the people and to the extent we are able to enlist the full cooperation of the people, only to that extent this new Khera approach will succeed. And we are not giving up the other approaches. We are not giving up spraying and we are not giving up other measures which have been found efficacious, but which may now become counter-productive because of immunity and so on. Where even the DDT has now become prone to immunity, we are trying other combinations. So, it is a

multi-pronged attack that is being done now. I do hope, in the years to come, we will be able to extend the Khera approach to more and more areas where people's ready cooperation is forth coming.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Ch. Sundar Singhji shall ask a question.

CH. SUNDAR SINGH: I want to speak for myself. I will not take much of your time. I am residing in 33, Ferozshah Road and I have to lay awake every night killing mosquitoes. I have written a number of letters to the C.P.W.D., but they do not come. Kindly, instruct them to do some spraying in our area. Until the capital is freed of mosquitoes, how can we talk about any other area? If we cannot be protected, then what will happen to others?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I could not follow anything.

MR. SPEAKER: If he has killed all mosquitoes, what will you do then?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: You write to us and we will make arrangements so that you can sleep peacefully at night.

[English]

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM: The NMEP has been in existence for a long time. We are glad to hear that malaria was eradicated in 1965. But when once it was eradicated, how is it possible for it to occur again? If malaria is again spreading, what is the percentage of its incidence from 1965 upto now? And what is the present incidence rate?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is a very good question. Sir, when we say that malaria has been eradicated, it does not mean that the last mosquito in the country has been eradicated. It is not like that. There is a percentage, below which, malaria is not considered endemic and those areas are

considered to be fit for only maintenance. In that maintenance stage if something goes wrong, if the maintenance is not very regular, what happens is that this failure in the maintenance also brings back the disease and the mosquito breeding, etc. This is exactly what has happened in some tribal areas. I remember very well from my own experience that in the entire State it was eradicated; but there was a small tribal pocket where there was evidently some indifference later on during the maintenance stage, the result of which was that it spread again.

From 1965 to 1976 onwards there was again the attack phase and we found that the number had gone upto 64 lakhs from almost three or four lakhs. During the last ten years, it is coming down and in 1986 it has come down to 17 lakhs. So, there is a perceptible change. There has been a perceptible response to the treatment and other measures which we have been undertaking. Hopefully this trend will continue and we will not make the same mistakes in the maintenance stage now. This is all that can be done.

[Translation]

SHRI K N PRADHAN: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true that incidents of Malaria have declined and the number of malarial mosquitoes have also decreased. But it is a fact that it is difficult to find out as to which mosquitoes are malarial and which are not. And it is also true that insecticides used to eradicate malaria like D.D.T. are becoming ineffective, because the mosquitoes have developed immunity against them. You may spray D.D.T. or any other insecticides, but none of them are proving effective. The mosquitoes are having a hey-day giving us music and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Whether one likes it or not is a different matter altogether.

MR SPEAKER: It has already been said.

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon Member was right in saying that there has been a sharp

increase in the mosquito population in the country. I have been residing in Delhi since 1966. In those days there was not a single mosquito in Delhi. But now the mosquitoes have multiplied to such an extent that they are beyond control. Secondly, as the hon. Member has stated, they have also become immune to insecticides like D.D.T. However, you have stated that only a particular kind of mosquitoes spread malaria. I want to know as to how you will be able to identify such mosquitoes so that malaria can be eradicated?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: The mosquitoes which give us music do not spread malaria.

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Mr. speaker, Sir, I want to submit that whether you spray D.D.T. or any other insecticides, you will have to agree that your slogan for the eradication of mosquitoes and malaria held good for 3 or 4 years only, but the situation has reversed since one or one-and-a-half years with the sharp increase in incidence of malaria. You may give any name to the malarial fever, but the fact is that malaria has become an acute problem in the rural areas.

MR SPEAKER: Kindly put your question.

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: In this connection, are you making some provisions which will help in eradicating malaria even if it does not help in getting rid of mosquitoes? The people are facing undescrivable hardships on account of this disease.

SHRI P V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, so far as the question of identification is concerned, you can identify them as easily as you can identify a human being. There are certain methods and which have been adopted for this purpose. The *P. falciparum* mosquito is different from all other mosquitoes. You may not be able to identify them, but the people engaged in this work are identifying them. The areas infested with such mosquitoes have been separated and a list has been prepared of

the areas with a concentration of *P. falciparum* mosquitoes. We have complete information about it. It is not that we cannot differentiate between different types of mosquitoes

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Sir, the mosquitoes are very big.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the hon. Member that the size of the mosquitoes has nothing to do with malaria. The biggest one can be non-malarial and the smallest one can be malarial. It does not depend on the size

SHRI V TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mosquitoes give us music. I am very troubled.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tulsiramji, what will you do with this information?

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is one point which I really want to make. It is a fact that incidents of both Malaria and Filariasis have very much increased in the urban areas during the last two decades. This has been tested. This has been verified. So, it will fall to the lot of the Municipal authorities in these areas to take much more stringent measures which really is not happening to the extent we want. Some special attention would have to be paid to this. In most of the rural areas, I have found that the Filariasis have been eradicated. The incidence has come dramatically down. The incidents of Malaria have come dramatically down. But, to that extent, it has increased in the cities. We have to look to the authorities concerned for that.

Shifting of South Eastern Railway Headquarters from Calcutta to Orissa

*862 SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa

has approached Union Government for shifting of South-Eastern Railway Headquarters from Calcutta to somewhere in the State of Orissa, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such request has been received recently

(b) On account of severe financial constraints, likely dislocation to a large number of staff and on administrative grounds, no such proposal is under consideration

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, A substantial portion of the South Eastern Railway is in Orissa. A major portion of the earnings of South Eastern Railway comes from Orissa, and this State is exclusively served by South Eastern Railway. The claim and the issue of shifting the headquarters of the South Eastern Railway, from Calcutta to Orissa, has been pending for the last two decades, and this is causing great dissatisfaction among the people of the State. The Railway Board has also so far completely ignored the legitimate claim of the people of Orissa.

Sir, you know that our Orissa is amongst the richest States in forest, agricultural and mineral wealth - most of which is found in backward areas, predominantly populated by the tribal and weaker sections of the people. There is also the required infrastructure for Railway communication facilities. These can be controlled and coordinated if the headquarters of the South Eastern Railway is located inside the State of Orissa.

Recently, the Orissa Assembly had also passed a unanimous resolution regarding the shifting of the headquarters of the South Eastern Railway from Calcutta to Orissa. The State Government of Orissa has also written about this, and requested Government of India to shift the headquar-