

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 11, 1980/  
Agrahayana 20, 1902 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of  
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Prescription of Medicines

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\*357. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

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

(a) whether a good deal of damage has already been done by the wrong prescribing habits of the doctors and the vested interest propoganda of drug producers;

(b) if so, whether this is the view expressed by the study group report on alternative strategy for health;

(c) whether ICMR and Indian Council of Social Science Research expert teams who submitted their recommendations to the Government have stated that even illiterate villagers have been brainwashed to demand an injection when a simple tablet will be more effective; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (d). The

study Group set up jointly by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research has submitted a report in August, 1980., under the title "Health for all: An alternative strategy". This report *inter-alia* seeks to redefine the position of the doctor and the drugs in this new model of an integrated, promotive, preventive and curative approach to health care. This report needs thorough in depth study before any detailed opinion is formed by the Government.

It may be correct to some extent that some doctors do prescribe drugs with limited medical potential, but to implicate the entire medical profession would not be correct. Government has no information regarding the prescribing habits of doctors engaged in private practice. Moreover qualified doctors are expected and do prescribe what they consider to be in the best interest of the patients.

SHRI B.V. DESAI: The integrated report of the Study Group which had been appointed under the title "Health for all: An alternative stragety" is a very valuable document. It has been submitted by a study group of technical experts. It is an integrated preventive and curative approach to the health care. It is already about six months now that the report is lying with the Government. May I know from the hon. Minister how many more months it will take for them to study the report and come out with a practical and useful plan of action by the Government?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: We also attach a great importance to this very report. The report is a voluminous one. It

has just come to us. It will take some more time to come to certain decisions in this respect.

**SHRI B. V. DESAI:** It is in August that they have submitted the report. The Minister says that it has just come. It is about six months now.

Secondly, it is a valuable document and it concerns the valuable lives of the villagers in the villages. Actually, they are devoid of any medical facilities. Under the scheme, they have proposed so many valuable suggestions, opening of hospitals in every village, at least one doctor for one village, subsidised medical facilities to weaker sections and so many other things. May I know whether the Government is thinking positively in this direction or they are simply sleeping over the report?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** We are definitely moving in that direction. We have changed our emphasis now from curing to preventive aspect of health care.

**SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** In the Answer the hon. Minister has agreed that it is correct that so far as some cases are concerned, the doctors prescribe drugs with limited Medical potential. So, in some cases, it is time and these cases are generally found in rural areas, in villages, where health care for the common man is very much limited. In view of the importance of this subject will the hon'ble Minister try to find out and punish the doctors who are found to be guilty so that at least in the rural areas where health care is very much needed they can be provided with cheap medicines as well as with expertise for their benefit?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:** Sir, I have also said in my main answer that on the face of it or in certain cases it may be correct but

to implicate the entire medical profession will not be a very wise proposition. However, I feel, if the medical profession could be made to be more careful in its prescribing habits then the things can improve further.

**SHRI G. B. GOHIL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very vital question and needs to be discussed at length. Sir, the scientists and doctors have recommended as to how curative and preventive measures could be established in the country. The detailed recommendations are yet to be known but I would like to know who will take the decision on the research and development which has been done, by the scientists and doctors? Whether the report will be examined by technocrats or bureaucrats? Secondly, Sir, in their recommendation they have clearly stated about the difficulties being faced by MBBS and MD qualified doctors. I would like to know whether sufficient research facilities are available in the public health centres and other centres. Sir, there are lot of quacks in the villages who are unnecessary poking their nose. Whether government will take a decision on the Floor of the House so that unqualified doctors are eradicated from the society?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):** I do not think he has asked any question based on the main question.

#### **Wagons for Movement of Industrial Goods**

\*362. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the supply position of the wagons for the movement of industrial goods and inputs has improved during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of the demand and availability of wagons in various zones of the Railways; and