

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February, 25 1988/Phalguna 6,
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Cancer Education Programme

*41. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cancer detected at a very
late stage causes the death of the patient;

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to take steps to educate the people about
cancer through television and other media;
and

(c) if so, the time by which Government
propose to launch this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF
CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India, State Governments, Central Health Education Bureau and the Regional Cancer Centres in different parts of the country have already undertaken health education programmes for prevention and early detection of cancer through radio, television, films, newspapers and periodicals. Exhibitions are also organised and printed materials distributed to educate the public on the preventive aspects of cancer.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Hon. Speaker, I congratulate him on giving answer to the first question.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Hon. Speaker, I want to know from the hon. Minister the total number of patients in India who were suffering from cancer during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and what is the number of such patients in Uttar Pradesh now? What is the number of cancer patients dying in India on account of non-detection of the disease at the initial stage?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Hon. Speaker, the member wants to know the number of patients suffering from cancer in India. According to the registration available at present, there are 15 lakh patients suffering from cancer. There are adequate facilities available for their treatment. In so far as the question of educating them is concerned, as already stated by me in part (b) of the answer, they are being educated at all levels through different media. But still I would like to inform the hon. Member that—

[*English*]

Central Health Education Bureau has already taken steps to educate people in the direction of early detection of cancer and its prevention through radio and television. Films on cancer have also been prepared and exhibitions organised at Jaipur, Chandigarh and Madras.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Speaker, these are the Media through which we are trying to prevent cancer in the country.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Hon. Speaker, in spite of all that the hon. Minister has said, the number of patients suffering from cancer in India is continuously increasing. Will the hon. Minister take more effective steps in this connection? For cancer treatment, the new electropathy treatment in India, which is already prevalent in Germany, has proved to be more effective. May I know whether Government propose to take some action in this direction?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Hon. Speaker, a mention has been made about Germany and how to save patients suffering from cancer in India. This question is very much under our consideration. We have 124 medical colleges. Out of these 124 colleges, there is arrangement for radio therapy in 52 colleges. Besides this, there are ten Regional Cancer Research Centres in the country. The same arrangements exist there also. We are trying to arrange for scrap smear test at Primary Health Centres and at the village level also, so that the people could be educated about the factors leading to cancer and about the steps required to be taken to check this disease. Out of the total cancer patients in the country, one-third are afflicted with this disease due to chewing of tobacco. There are four stages of cancer. At the first stage, the cancer is ordinary; at the

second stage, it expands. If the hon. Member desires, I can give him a detailed description of the disease.

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to think whether I have to give a ruling to the effect that the Members of Parliament should stop chewing tobacco... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Smoking should also be prohibited... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to do that.

SHRI D.N. REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as everybody knows that early cancer on any part of the body will not produce any symptom at all. Will the Hon. Minister assure us that the only way to deal with these cases is to provide cancer diagnostic units at every district headquarters? The only way is to immediately diagnose it at an early stage, only then you can cure the cancer. Unless this is done, you cannot cure the cancer. Will the Hon. Minister assure us that all these diagnostic centers of cancer will be arranged in every district headquarter so that rural folk are protected from it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Hon. Speaker, I have already stated that we are going to provide such facilities at Primary Health Centres and at village level. I have already stated that we are trying to provide facilities for treating cancer through Radio therapy and Co-balt therapy in the medical colleges and hospitals at district headquarters. In the coming days our efforts will be to reach the villages panchayats so as to train workers who may bring patients suffering from cancer to hospitals at district head quarters and help in carrying them to medical colleges.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: The Hon. Minister has stated that steps have been taken to have the radio therapy or cobalt treatment in district headquarters. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is taking any steps to have a full-fledged treatment institute and medical college at Berhampur, Ganjam district of Orissa. If so, what steps have been taken? I would also like to know whether the Orissa Government have already requested the Central Government to make it a full-fledged institution.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: As I have already stated, we are having ten regional cancer research and treatment centres. We are making all possible arrangements to extend our research centres so that cancer can be detected early cured and the cancer patient can be treated properly.

Resignation of Chairperson of the National Wasteland Development Board

*42 **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairperson of the National Wasteland Development Board recently resigned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to rejuvenate and restore to productive use nearly 60 per cent of the country's total land area which has turned arid and barren?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Orders were issued on 15.1.88 replacing Dr. (Mrs.) Kamla Chowdhry by Minister of State for Environment & Forests as Chairman of

the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB). In a letter of resignation received subsequently, Dr. Chowdhry mentioned that the Board was created as an independent nodal agency to co-ordinate and formulate policies relating to wastelands development and that sufficient authority has not been given to the Board to carry out these tasks. The Government does not accept this as being factually correct.

(c) The Government expects that with the recent changes the efforts to achieve the objectives for which the NWDB was set up will gain further momentum.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: From the answer it appears that there is a surprising coincidence between the orders issued on 15th January 1988 replacing Dr. Kamla Chowdhry by the Minister of State for Environment and Forest as chairman of the NWDB and her letter of resignation, because the newspapers carried her interview regarding resignation and the reasons for the resignation somewhere on 17th January 1988. Perhaps these have crossed each other—the orders for replacement and her resignation.

Apart from the fact which you have mentioned about the resignation, viz., Dr. Chowdhry mentioned that the Board was created as an independent nodal agency to co-ordinate and formulate policies relating to wastelands development and that sufficient authority has not been given to the Board to carry out these tasks, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Chairman had also mentioned that the Board was dependent on the Forest Department and the Revenue Department and as far as the Revenue Department was concerned it preferred to release degraded lands for mining and quarrying rather than giving them to the Board for improving them.

Similarly when the Board pleaded to