

के अन्तर्गत अब तक कितने डाक्टर विदेश भेजे गये;

(ख) इन डाक्टरों ने भारत लौटने के बाद प्लास्टिक सर्जरी के कितने मामले हाथ में लिये, और

(ग) ये डाक्टर इस समय कहाँ कहाँ काम कर रहे हैं ?

†[SPECIALISATION IN PLASTIC SURGERY

623. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of doctors so far sent abroad to specialise in Plastic Surgery under the Colombo Plan;

(b) the number of cases of plastic surgery handled by these doctors after their return to India; and

(c) the names of the places where these doctors are at present working?]

स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री
(डा० सुशीला नायर) : (क) से (ग)
सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा समय
सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

†[THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.]

12 Noon

RULING BY THE CHAIR ON THE QUESTION OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM, MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Shri Rajnarain gave notices seeking my consent to raise a question of breach of privilege and contempt of the House against Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Food and Agriculture. The question sought to be raised through these notices concerned certain matters which have been the subject of comment by the Public Accounts Committee in its fiftieth and fifty-fifth Reports.

†[] English translation.

At the sitting of the Rajya Sabha on August 12, 1966, I permitted Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Shri Rajnarain to make their submissions in order to satisfy me that there was a *prima facie* case for giving consent. I allowed also the Leader of the House and Shri C. Subramaniam to make their submissions in the matter.

I have carefully considered the notices and the submissions made. I have come to the conclusion that no case of breach of privilege or contempt of this House is involved. Members will have an opportunity of expressing their views on the matter contained in the fifty-fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee when the substantive motion on the subject which I have already admitted comes up for discussion before this House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, there are certain other developments—I have not raised them today—in that connection which have been taken up in the other place. But I hope that they will be taken up in this House also. But I would request you kindly to arrange for an early discussion on the motion on the Public Accounts Committee's Report. We shall return to the subject at that time.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED THREAT OF POLLUTION TO DELHI'S FILTERED WATER SUPPLY

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the reported threat of pollution to Delhi's filtered water supply.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): Sir, when the river Yamuna is in floods, some of the villages upstream of Wazirabad Water Works are inundated. However, there are only four villages, namely, (i) Jagatpur, (ii) Old Wazirabad, (iii) Gopalpur and (iv) New Wazirabad which are concerned and which, being very close to Wazirabad Water Supply Intake, pose special threat to the purity of water.

During the high floods, water outskirts these villages and, therefore, a close watch is to be kept over the quality of raw water at the water works. Laboratory tests (physical, chemical and bacteriological) are conducted regularly. Water is given complete treatment before it is supplied for drinking purposes, and whenever considered necessary, the dose of chlorine is also increased. The floods also bring a lot of trees and bushes which tend to clog the screens at the Intake pier. These are removed by engaging special staff during the flood season.

There has been no increased contamination of the drinking water supply from Okhla source as has been reported in certain papers. It may be stated that as a result of laboratory tests (physical, chemical and bacteriological) raw as well as finished water have been re-examined and found to be normal. It may be added that at Okhla Water Works, strictest laboratory control inclusive of post and pre-chlorination with high chlorine dose is exercised round the clock. Due to long distances and dilution of water with the water of Hindon River, the chemical composition of Okhla Water Works is not deteriorated during floods in spite of increased possibility of pollution. /

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I am glad that the Health Ministry is admitting that there are increased possibilities of pollution. Just I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and yourself also, Sir, to the photograph that has been published in the 'Hindustan Times' of today with the caption "With filth flowing into the flooded Jamuna from the Shahdara dumping ground, there is a danger of pollution to the city's water supply". This is that photograph, and a lot of information has been given. Firstly, I would like to know in this connection whether it is not a fact that a lot of filth, etc. is dumped all along the river, particularly near the railway bridge here and that during the floods, water erodes into the filth and takes away the filth along with the water into the Okhla Water Works. Secondly, I would like to know why this practice of dumping this filth, etc. along the side of the river is still allowed in spite of the fact that there are a large number of other places. Even as

the Minister admits there are possibilities of increasing pollution on account of this dumping and why is this practice being continued? Thirdly, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the Naskar Committee recommended that the Okhla water should not be used for supply to Delhi citizens in as much as the greater possibilities of this Okhla water being contaminated and that, instead of it, the Hindon River water should be supplied. Fourthly, the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee of 1960-61 in its Report recommended that a water pollution control programme should be evolved with a view to protecting river waters from pollution. This was the recommendation of that Committee. I would like to know what action has been taken with regard to that. Recommendations are made but recommendations are forgotten; no action is being taken, with the result that there is the increasing possibility of pollution. This is not only in Delhi, this is the general practice all over the country. I would like to know why action has not been taken on the recommendation of this Committee that was set up in 1960-61.

MR. CHAIRMAN : (To the Minister)
Would you like to deal with them together?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi). Sir, I rise with a great deal of sympathy for the Health Minister that every year, in this 20th century of civilisation and in the Capital . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you sought some clarification.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am putting the question.

. . . City of India, she has to come to this House and tell us that the water contamination is not as bad as it is reported in the Press. Every year, at least once, she gives this assurance to us. And may I say that at least 16 Committees have been appointed? Every Committee has recommended certain things. The dumps have not been removed, nothing has been done about the discharge of pollution from the Najafgarh Nallah which was the cause of the jaundice epidemic. For three years this Okhla water has been

[Shri I. K. Gujral.]

declared unfit for human consumption. But every time it is said to us that the chlorine content is looking after the bacteriological content and that it ultimately disappears. Every time the rain starts, there is the flood and now the difficulty will start when the flood recedes because the bacteriological content will go up. Is it possible for the Health Minister to assure us, particularly when tourists now desist from coming to this town and the foreigners here start drinking aerated water because our water is not safe, that some such permanent measures will be taken which can look after the health of this poor town which suffers every year? Will she kindly assure us of pure water supply that is good for our people and for the tourists who come here? Would she now take any of the actions which all these Committees have recommended from time to time, although another Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharam Vira to take action on the actions recommended and that action has not also been taken? May I know whether she is willing to assure this town that at least from next year, when the water recedes, we shall not be exposed to this contamination?

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH (Delhi): The hon. Minister has stated that because of the floods, water, raw as well as filtered, has been re-examined. May I know what is the frequency of examination, whether it has been examined again and again during these flood days or not?

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that water has been tested and that the chlorine content is adequate. May I know, Sir, at what hours is the water tested? Is it being tested hour-to-hour or at certain other stages in the day? May I ask further whether the result of the tests would be made available to the public and whether the sterilisation tablets made by certain companies—one tablet would sterilise a bucket of water—would be made available to the public?

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar): Sir, the hon'ble Health Minister also belongs to the medical profession. Can she tell us whether it is safe for us to drink the tap water or not or will she advise us and advise the citizens of Delhi to boil it

before drinking? I would like to have a definite answer whether it is safe to drink the tap water or she recommends that every one should boil it before taking it?

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh): I would like to know whether it is possible for the poverty-stricken people of Delhi to boil their water and also if this is the policy of the Health Ministry in this socialist State?

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका (पश्चिम बंगाल):

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दो हफ्ते से अल्टी मानिग में और दोपहर में जब पानी आता है तो पहले बहुत मैला आता है और एक दो मिनट बाद साफ आता है और मैला पानी हम यूँ नहीं कर सकते हैं तो साफ पानी के बंदोबस्त के लिये क्या उपाय किया जा रहा है?

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated): Sir, sometime ago an expert came from England and he reported on the laboratory conditions at the waterworks. His report was in some respects very adverse. May I know whether steps have now been taken to put the laboratory on up-to-date and modern basis and, secondly, whether chlorination is effective and kills virus in the water?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, I have seen the newspaper picture and report which the hon'ble Member referred to and, therefore, I immediately contacted the health authorities of the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The Chief Engineer has assured us that they are in full control of the situation and there is no apprehension or any threat of pollution of water. May I say, Sir, that during floods there is increased risk of contamination not merely because of certain dumps etc. but because of the insanitary habits of our people in the villages? There are villages on the banks of Jamuna. Naturally when water goes inside those areas it brings dirt from there into the river. May I say, Sir, that we have taken action to remove manure of the dumping areas? The Badli dump was closed down and several other dumps were closed down. To the best of my knowledge most of them have been taken far away. If there are any still remaining which can pose a threat to the water, we shall see to it that they also are removed as far away as possible. But if the extent of the floods is so extensive that the dumps which are even miles away come within the reach of

flood waters, the only thing that we can do is to take very good care, that adequate treatment is given to the water so that it is made safe.

May I add, Sir, that Shri Gujral is welcome to come and examine this 10-page statement which shows what action has been taken on the various committee's recommendations? Sir, time does not permit me to go through it all. Several works have been completed. Several are in the process of being completed. We are very conscious of the fact that protection of our water supply is necessary and we are doing everything that is necessary and possible for it.

Now, as for the frequency of the examination of the water is concerned, if I remember correctly, there are certain places where the water is tested even more frequently than every hour; the tests go on round the clock. Particularly when there is danger of pollution, the frequency of tests is increased. I may assure the House that there is no need for any sterilisation tablets for anybody to use in his bucket of water. We are all drinking the water that is coming from the taps and we consider it safe according to the reports that are available to us from experts

Further, Sir, I would like to say that the laboratory that hon'ble Shri Kaul referred to was attended to, and our National Institute of Communicable Diseases and also the Delhi research unit of the Central Laboratory for Public Health Engineering Research have both helped the Corporation laboratory and set it on as good a standard as was immediately possible in the face of certain foreign exchange difficulties etc. May I say, Sir, that all necessary tests, all necessary precautions are being taken, and while I cannot give the assurance to Shri Gujral that there will be no risk or no danger of contamination in the future, because flood waters, if they go into the villages, will bring whatever dirt has accumulated in those villages into the river, I can say that we shall continue to take very good care to see that the water supplied to the population of Delhi is safe as we have done in the past?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, may I ask a point . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you had already asked.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It is a very serious one. Has the Health Minister visited the laboratory after the threat was reported in the press? Secondly, has the hon'ble Minister now contemplated and decided to bring forth legislation against contamination of the natural water?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: So far as a visit to the laboratory is concerned, not once but I paid several visits till I was satisfied that the laboratory is functioning properly. So far as this business of legislation is concerned, Sir, legislation is contemplated not for Delhi particularly but for the prevention of river pollution all over the country.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I want to ask some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please. I pass on to the next item.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : क्या यहां के पानी की सरकार बम्बई या कलकत्ता के एक्सपर्ट्स से जांच करायेगी ?

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT) RESOLUTIONS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Resolutions of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment):—

- (i) Resolution No. WB-2(4)/66(1), dated the 12th August, 1966, announcing acceptance of the recommendations made by the Central Wage Board for Iron Ore Mining Industry. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6792/66.]
- (ii) Resolution No. WB-2(4)/66(2), dated the 12th August, 1966, announcing acceptance of the recommendations made by the Central Wage Board for Limestone and Dolomite Mining Industries. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6793/66.]