

(d) whether this case of smuggling was detected with the assistance of any person; and

(e) if so, whether any reward was given to him, and if so, what is the nature of the reward?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) No gold was seized recently, as smuggled, from the Italian liner m.v. Asia. However, a seizure of 17,280 tolas of gold (2,01,537 grams) was made in October, 1960 from the vessel by the Bombay Customs. The contraband valued at Rs. 23 lakhs at the then market-rate was recovered from the persons of a visitor and a transit passenger and the cabin occupied by the latter.

(b) and (c) The transit passenger was prosecuted and sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. A separate case was filed against four more persons including the visitor; they were convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

(d) and (e) One outside person, whose assistance was taken by the Department, was sanctioned a reward of Rs. 2,000.

#### †LEVY ON KHANDSARI SUGAR

507. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to reduce the existing levy on Khandsari sugar;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) what are the reasons which led to this decision;

(d) whether it is likely to affect adversely the production of mill sugar; and

(e) if so, upto what extent?

†Transferred from the 21st September, 1964.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) to (c) No reduction has been made in the Standard rates of excise duty on khandsari sugar. The rates of compounded levy in respect of khandsari units working under the Compounded Levy Scheme were, however, as in previous years, reduced by one-third, for the period from 1st July, 1964 to 31st October, 1964. This is because the recovery of second process sugar produced during this period, is comparatively lower per unit of working time.

(d) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### REPORTED DEATHS OF TWO SCHOOL CHILDREN OF DELHI DUE TO INFECTIVE HEPATITIS

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi): Sir, with your permission may I call the attention of the hon. Health Minister to the reported deaths of two school children of Delhi due to infective hepatitis?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): Sir, according to the information furnished by the hospitals in Delhi, deaths from infective hepatitis during the month of September, 1964, have been 2 in Safdarjang Hospital, 1 in Willingdon Hospital, 1 in Irwin Hospital, 1 in Kalawati Saran Hospital and 1 in Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, making a total of 6.

A statement showing the number of patients treated for infective hepatitis in the Safdarjang, Willingdon, Police Lines, Hindu Rao, Irwin and

Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospitals from January, 1964, to September, 1964 (up to 28th September, 1964), as far as available, together with the figures for the corresponding periods of 1963 and 1962 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. It shows that there is no increase in infective hepatitis this year up till now. Up to 28th September, 1964 there were 388 reported cases including those admitted to hospitals, and treated by doctors at home, with 6 deaths, which I have mentioned already.

A perusal of the trend of infective hepatitis cases admitted into the hospitals of the Union Territory of Delhi will indicate that there is annually a rise in the cases of infective hepatitis about the month of September. This was also borne out at the time when the epidemic of 1955-56 was studied, which started in December, 1955.

A special effort has been made to get as accurate a picture of the position as possible. In the last two years, in the month of September, on an average, 160 patients were admitted into six of the major hospitals in Delhi. Up to the 28th of September this year, the number of these patients admitted into these hospitals has been 96.

It will be noted that the present trend of admissions, if anything, is on the low side. In addition, during the month of September, 211 cases were reported as having been diagnosed from the C.G.H.S. dispensaries. These dispensaries serve an estimated population of 5.77 lakhs of Government employees and their families. In 1955, in the month of September, well before the epidemic started, 110 cases were reported from amongst the Central Government servants, before the contamination of water which had occurred that year in the first half of November. Thus, the incidence of the disease among the population of Central Government servants in 1955 works out to about 44 per hundred

thousand, and in 1964, according to the present figures as reported, the incidence works out to 40.62 per hundred thousand. It would therefore be noted that as far as the Central Government servants are concerned and the cases admitted into the major hospitals are concerned, no rise in the admission rate or in the incidence of infective hepatitis has been reported so far. It is too early, however, to say whether a large-scale outbreak of infective hepatitis will or will not occur. However, from the present facts we are unable to see any rising trend of infective hepatitis during this month, and therefore one might presume that it is unlikely to occur.

The following precautions have been taken by the authorities concerned to prevent the outbreak of epidemic diseases in Delhi following the contamination of the river Yamuna, which occurred during early September, 1964, on account of the unprecedented rains and the consequent floods. The water is being adequately chlorinated according to the standards recommended by the World Health Organisation experts in such situations. Then steps have been taken to educate the public. Sir, there are about four and a half pages regarding all the various measures taken. Do you want me to read all that, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is necessary, but I am afraid you have not said about the two children who are supposed to have died of this.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, about these two children, if you, like, I shall give the details. The first case was the death of a boy named Ajay Kumar, aged seven years, from Sarojini Nagar; the child died on 8th September, 1964. Sir, the incubation period is about three weeks. The pollution of the river water had taken place on the 6th of September and the child could not have died on the 8th due to the pollution that took place in the river Yamuna. Sir, this child was admitted in the hospital on 6th

[Dr. Sushila Nayar]

September, 1964, that is, on the day on which the pollution occurred. The diagnosis was infective hepatitis with acute yellow atrophy of liver. History of fever for seven days before admission; pain in abdomen and vomiting for one day; colour of vomit—coffee, ground. On examination jaundice.....; liver soft and palpable and tender; spleen not palpable. The child had three or four times haematemesis; the condition of the child was poor. Intensive therapy was instituted with glucose saline—Neomycin; Decadron, etc., but there was no response. The child died on 8th September, 1964.

The second was, a boy named Rajeshwar, aged three years, from Sewa Nagar, died on 21st September, 1964 in Safdarjang Hospital. He was admitted on 17th September, 1964 and the diagnosis was infective hepatitis with acute yellow atrophy of liver. History of high fever 12 days before admission. This was also similar to the earlier case; in that if you deduct 12 days out of 17, it takes you to 5th of September, that is, the day previous to the pollution of the Yamuna water. Vomiting from the day of onset, but coffee colour vomit had been only for one day. He had haematemesis one day before admission; pain in abdomen; urine of yellow colour; child was admitted in poor condition. On examination, jaundice....., child semi-conscious, liver palpable and tender, spleen not palpable. Then there are some chemical tests—Serum Bilirubin, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that should be enough, which is ample medical information.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Health Minister has rightly assured us that these deaths did not take place as the direct result of the pollution. Is it the Government's stand or contention that if, God forbid, any incidents should take place now as the direct result of the

pollution, the Government can be held responsible for the disease and sued for it?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, I just do not understand what the hon. Member means by this statement. He was a very responsible officer of the N.D.M.C. till very recently and if anything happened in the New Delhi Municipality, I would like to know if he would have been responsible. To the extent that he would have been held responsible, the Government can be held responsible.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: This is my second question, Sir. We see that the Commissioner of the Corporation has announced that the water is safe. But at the same time a leading newspaper today has reported this. I will take only one second in reading it.

"The Badli refuse dumping ground looked a sea of filth. Polluted water with a large concentration of organic matter was heading towards Wazirabad."

I would like the hon. Minister to tell us if any steps are being taken to stop any further chances of pollution?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: All steps have been taken to prevent overflow of some of these waters into the Jumna. Further as I have stated in the other House, flood control, Sir, is not the responsibility of the Health Ministry, although it is the responsibility of the Government. Together with the various Ministries concerned in the Government of India, and the State Ministries of the concerned neighbouring States, they have set up a Commission or Board to go into the whole matter as to how best a composite scheme of drainage for these areas can be worked out which will save us from recurrence of such tragedies.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: My third and last question, Sir, is this. In view of what has happened in the last few

ways, very sadly and possibly due to natural causes, is the hon. Minister thinking of appointing an expert committee of health engineers to plan out the entire health programme for the city so that we are not faced with this problem irrespective of the flood control?

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** The problem, Sir, cannot be dealt with irrespective of flood control. Public health engineers cannot be expected to solve a problem which is a very much bigger problem, and which involves the overall drainage and flood control of all these neighbouring areas. I am very sorry to notice, Sir, that even in the newspapers and amongst certain other sections, the Health Section of the Corporation has been made the target of unwarranted attacks. I do not hold any brief for any inefficiency that may be anywhere. But I can say with due sense of responsibility that in the present water crisis, those in the Health Section of D.M.C. have worked day and night and done a magnificent job to prevent this unfortunate pollution of the Jumna leading to untoward results on the health of the people; and as a result of this, Sir, there has not been any increase in any of these infectious diseases so far.

**DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU** (Uttar Pradesh): May I know, when the water is declared safe, will the Ministry advise that the taps should be left open so that the mains may be flushed, because otherwise there is no way of removing the virus which may be inside the main pipes?

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** Sir, I shall pass on the hon. Member's suggestions to the engineers.

**SHRI SANTOKH SINGH** (Delhi): Sir, the hon. Minister has given us the percentages for the month of September in 1955 and 1964, as 44 per cent per 100,000 and 44.67 per cent per 100,000. I would like to know the total number of cases in the year

1955 and the number for 1964 from January to September.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** I do not know if I have that figure. But as I have stated, the total number of cases out of the 2½ lakhs of the population that the C.G.C.H.S. served at that time was naturally less than the number of cases now. Now we are serving about 6 lakhs of people and the proportionate caseload is what I have already mentioned. I am afraid. I do not have the exact number of cases.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI** (Uttar Pradesh): May I ask whether the hon. Minister of Health is aware that the New Delhi Municipality has failed in keeping the bylanes and the servants' quarters near the M.P. quarters clean and very unhygienic conditions prevail there? And I suppose this is one of the causes of the infection. May I know whether this matter has been brought to the notice of the New Delhi Municipality and they have been told to do the needful?

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** Well, Sir, it is true, as the hon. Member says, there is insanitation. In fact hepatitis is more or less endemic in Delhi as it is in several of the European countries also, and the general insanitary conditions in Delhi are partly responsible for it and partly the insanitary habits of our own people are responsible for it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** But not the Members of Parliament.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** And we have asked the N.D.M.C. and the D.M.C. to do everything possible to improve sanitation and from the 2nd of October they are launching a drive for cleanliness and sanitation.

**SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN** (Andhra Pradesh): The Health Minister has stated that so far as this problem of the pollution of water in Delhi is concerned, it is not possible for the Delhi Corporation or the Health Sec-

[Shri Akbar Ali Khan]

tion to deal with it. May I know, as this matter has been going on for the last few years on a high level, what efforts are being made and how far she thinks they would be effective?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I have gone round the various areas and Dr K. L. Rao has also gone round the various areas. I have requested the Prime Minister also to have a high-power board or committee consisting of all the concerned governmental agencies and experts to do something about it. I understand that some kind of Board has been appointed by the Power and Irrigation Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we pass on to the next item on the agenda.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### NOTIFICATION UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT, 1952

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Sir, on behalf of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Company Law) (Company Law Division) Notification G.S.R. No. 1228, dated the 28th August, 1964, issued under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3251/64].

##### ANNUAL REPORT (1963-64) OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 19 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, a copy of the Eighth Annual Report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1963-64. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3294/64].

##### I. THE ABKARI LAWS (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1964

##### II. THE REVENUE RECOVERY LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1964

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 213 of the Constitution read with sub-clause (iv) of clause (c) of the President's Proclamation dated the 10th September, 1964, a copy each of the following Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of Kerala:—

(i) The Abkari Laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 1964 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1964). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3280/64].

(ii) The Revenue Recovery Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1964 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1964). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3281/64].

##### ANNUAL REPORT (1963-64) OF THE AGRICULTURAL REFINANCE CORPORATION, BOMBAY, AND RELATED PAPERS

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the First Annual Report and Accounts of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, Bombay, for the year ended the 30th June, 1964, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3297/64].

##### NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Company Law), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 1260, dated the 5th September, 1964.