

Stations, there is a notice in Hindi: *Akha wagon barvana samay*. Is this Hindi or Gujarati? Has this been referred to the Surveyor General of India? This means "time allotted for full wagons" in Gujarati and the same thing has been written in the Hindi script. Is the hon. Minister aware that such notices have been pasted on some of the railway wagons? The script is Devnagari.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: If Hindi is to become the State language of the country, its form will have to undergo a metamorphosis and will have to borrow many more things from the regional languages. I am glad the Railways have started the process.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN DELHI/ NEW DELHI

*478. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any control over the supply of drinking water to the various colonies in Delhi and the city of New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure supply of good drinking water to these colonies and the city of New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry is only responsible for answering questions in Parliament regarding water supply to Delhi. The water supply distribution in Delhi and New Delhi area is controlled jointly by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the hon. Minister has taken the trouble of enquiring from the concerned authorities as to whether drinking water in Moti Nagar and Ramesh Nagar is dirty during most parts of the year and is not fit for human consumption?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, I should be sorry to know if what the hon. Member says is correct but I shall have to find out. It is a serious matter. Nobody has the business to supply dirty drinking water.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: The hon. Minister has admitted the responsibility for replying to questions about water in this House but may I know whether, after the receipt of the question, he made any enquiry from the authorities concerned about the supply of drinking water in the various camps of displaced persons in Delhi?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, normally we are aware of the arrangement of supply of good drinking water. Delhi is one of those cities where the citizens are in good luck, large number of persons are getting very pure water, and as Minister of Health I am in a position to assure the citizens of Delhi that what they are getting is the purest supply of water excepting a small amount of it. That also is purified. Near about Okhla it was subject to contamination but then it is purified. Apart from that, chlorination is also resorted to, and the water that is being supplied by the municipal bodies can stand comparison with any good water in the world.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Are we to understand, Sir, that the hon. Minister did not make any efforts to find out the facts about the question and that he depended on his knowledge only?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Not with regard to this question, Sir. My hon. friend will recall that the question is whether my Ministry has any control over the supply of drinking water. About this we did not find it necessary to make enquiries. The second part is about the steps being taken to ensure supply of good water, and in view of (a), I said 'It does not arise'. If he puts another question, then I might try. I do not like to abuse the time of the House by trying to anticipate questions.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government of India in the Health Department does not owe any responsibility for the supply of pure drinking water?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has said that it is the function of the municipal authorities.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In a sense we owe a duty in respect of health matters for the whole of the country but then authority is subdivided and drinking water supply is the responsibility of the municipal authorities. In a general way we are connected but if he puts a specific question about a water tap for his house, then that is the responsibility of the municipal authorities. Otherwise, I shall find life impossible.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In case the Delhi Municipal Corporation is not in a position or deliberately supplies impure water, what is the control he can have on that body? Is it not the responsibility of the Central Government in the Health Ministry to look into this?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In so far as the statute permits us, we do intervene in general serious cases but then he asks about the normal functions of a Municipal Corporation like the supply of water, etc. That is the duty of the Municipal Corporation. If there is serious breach, then we shall intervene. I wish hon. Members would appreciate the position. There is a very good arrangement. I am prepared to arrange for transport for as many Members as possible to visit the plants. After that, I am quite sure there will be no supplementaries in this House.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: What I want to know is this: He says that he is responsible for answering questions in this House. When this question was raised, was it not his duty to find out if there was really some trouble somewhere?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir, we do not view our work in that light. When a question is put, we direct our minds to it and ask for only relevant information. This question did not require any further reference at all because we knew all about it.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Do we have to wait for calamities like diseases, etc. before pure water supply is made available?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: * * * * * If the hon. Member had any particular case where water supply was not pure, I shall myself look into it but to raise hypothetical questions does not lead to good health.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Has the hon. Minister received any representation from any of the colonies that the water supplied is not pure?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir, we have not received any such representations.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: The hon. Minister was pleased to tell us that there was a certain area where it was not possible for water supply to escape contamination and that it was purified later on. Will he please tell us as to where that area is?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is the area served by Okhla. It is already on record, about 4 lakhs of population, but here also the water supply is good.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Are we to depend upon the people in the colonies to know whether good water is being supplied or not?

(No reply.)

*479. [The questioners (Shri P. N. Rajabhoj and Shri Purna Chandra Sharma) were absent. For answer, vide col. 2529 infra.]

*****Expunged as ordered by the Chair.