

MR. CHAIRMAN He also said that there were violations of the IPC and the Railways Act

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY In all these cases which are pending after the lapse of the Ordinance, has a separate charge-sheet been made against them or are they being tried for the same offence for which they were originally charged?

SHRI S V RAMASWAMY Those under the Ordinance will be dropped; those under the IPC may go on

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY For all the offences under the Ordinance nobody is being either tried or prosecuted

MR. CHAIRMAN Are you prepared to give an assurance that now that the Ordinance has lapsed all cases of violation of the Ordinance have been withdrawn? That is her question

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY Yes, Sir

SHRI S V RAMASWAMY I cannot give an assurance, but the Ordinance has lapsed on the 19th September, and in accordance with the directions of the Home Ministry instructions have been issued and cases arising exclusively out of the Ordinance have been directed to be withdrawn by the State Governments

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE May I know the number of Scheduled Caste employees suspended or being prosecuted still?

MR. CHAIRMAN That is another question

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI May I know whether it is a fact that when the Ordinance lapsed and these cases were withdrawn, fresh charges were brought against these employees?

SHRI S V RAMASWAMY It may be departmental action for gross misconduct

#### TRIAL OF THE CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS "NORETHYNODREL" IN INDIA

\*192 SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE. Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state

(a) whether any trial on the contraceptive pills "Norethynodrel" has been carried out in India,

(b) if so, whether these pills have proved effective and safe for birth-control purpose, and

(c) if so, what efforts are being made to popularise these pills in India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D P KARMARKAR) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) The Government of India have appointed a committee for reviewing the development and research on oral contraceptives. The Committee made the following recommendations regarding the use of this drug —

(i) In view of the delicate hormonal balance in the human body and the harmful effects that may flow from upsetting such a balance over a prolonged period by the administration of these steroids and in the absence of adequate evidence that the use of these steroids for prolonged periods is harmless, the stage has not yet been reached to permit the sale of these steroids for control of conception,

(ii) In view of the available evidence of effectiveness of these drugs for disturbances of menstruation, threatened abortion and sterility, for which their use is for short duration, their sale for therapeutic purposes on medical prescription may be permitted and this question may

be considered by the Drugs Controller (India) in the normal course. The Drugs Controller (India) will no doubt consider the restrictions and precautions that should be imposed while permitting the sale of these products,

(iii) The Government of India may have no objection to the use of these products for research purposes as regards their anti-fertility effect by competent workers under rigid controlled conditions."

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE May I know whether the hon Minister is aware that these pills have been widely used in America and Canada and whether it has been found that these pills are quite effective for contraceptive purposes?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR It is not a fact that they have been widely used. I understand that recently some types of these oral pills have been only permitted, they are not widely used yet. But so far as our country is concerned we have to devote the best possible attention to it. Simply because they have permitted it there, we are not prepared to follow suit unless we are satisfied that they are not harmful to our people.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE May I know the nature of the research made so far as these pills 'Norethynodrel' are concerned, whether any research is being made by the Government to find out if the drug is effective and harmless?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR Subject to correction I think research was made on animals and no research is being made on our people because we must have good regard for the subjects of such research who will be our ladies. And so far we could not undertake such research. We must be satisfied that it is not going to have

any deleterious effect on them and I am not prepared to assure anybody on this score even if it be for anti-fertility purposes. Not a single lady should be allowed to suffer the harmful consequences.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE The hon Minister just stated that these pills were tried on animals. May I know the result of these pills on animals?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR The advice at the present moment is that the side effects are more than the proper effects.

DR. H N KUNZRU Are human beings being used for experiment here?

MR. CHAIRMAN Are human beings being used for experimental purposes in India? That is what he asks.

SHRI D P KARMARKAR On this particular point, no.

DR. H N KUNZRU How is it that the Government is going to satisfy itself that the contraceptives mentioned here can be used without any fear of harmful consequences by those who need it?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I think the best solution for me and for my friend would be to have a conversation with an expert on the subject. They can sit together and

DR. H N KUNZRU I want a reply so that the House can understand, I do not want any private reply from the hon Minister.

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I am prepared to make a public reply. I should not tread where it is not safe for me to do so. It is a technical question. I cannot explain it and my friend cannot understand it even if it is explained. It is a scientific subject, and I would like it to be dealt with in a scientific manner.

DR H N KUNZRU He said that experiments in other countries, in America, were made on animals and that the Government of India could not therefore be certain that this medicine when administered to human beings would not be harmful. I want to know what steps are being taken to find out whether human beings can take the medicine without any harmful consequences.

SHRI D P KARMARKAR As I have stated in the main body of the reply, an Expert Committee sat and it advised the Government and we are satisfied that the advice has been *bona fide* and correct and therefore until our experts advise us we are not prepared to run the risk of trying this on human beings.

DR. H N KUNZRU What methods are the Government going to use to satisfy themselves that the medicine is harmless or harmful?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR As I said, Sir, if competent people come forward to carry on an experiment, we are prepared to give proper instructions.

DR H N KUNZRU How is the experiment to be carried on? On whom—on animals or human beings?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR On animals we are trying it. Regarding human beings my friend will entirely agree with me that unless we are satisfied that it is not risky even to carry on the experiment on them, we shall not carry it on and we are not going to stampede the country with this.

DR. H N KUNZRU Do Government propose to make experiments on animals here? Why should they not be satisfied with the result of the administration of the medicine to animals in other countries?

MR CHAIRMAN Dr Kunzru, somewhere in his answer he has said that

the side effects have been more harmful even on animals.

DR H N KUNZRU What are those side effects? Let us know.

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I shall reply to it on proper notice.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE In view of the population problem of this country, what steps are being taken by the hon. Minister to find out an effective drug, some oral contraceptive by which the growth of population can be checked?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I may tell the House that a good experiment is being done in Calcutta under Dr Sanyal's auspices, and he has been able to evolve an entirely harmless drug for oral administration only twice in the month. They have been experimenting with it for the last three years and the results have been found to be 50 per cent good.

SALE OF SURPLUS WHEAT OF MADHYA PRADESH TO MAHARASHTRA

\*193 SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No 78 in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August 1960 and state

(a) whether any tripartite talks were held between the Union Government and the Governments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh regarding the sale of surplus wheat of Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, and

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached for the sale of the surplus wheat to Maharashtra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A M THOMAS) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No final decision has been taken.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE May I know why there is such a delay in