

large number of postal employees in the post offices at Rourkela absenting themselves on medical certificates during the period 3rd to 6th November 1959. Arrangements, were however, made for the sale of stamps, delivery of mails at the window, delivery of telegrams and express delivery letters and despatch of mails through the staff available and some volunteers.

(b) Alleged illness.

(c) The issue of medical certificates to the staff has been taken up with the State Medical Authorities. The D.P.T. Cuttack is also being asked to deal with the disciplinary aspect of the case.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, what is the strength of the additional staff put to run the work?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Well, Sir, the staff that went on leave were 23 clerks and 13 postmen out of 24 clerks and 13 postmen. So deliveries were made through the window, because there were no postmen to take the articles to the addressees.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, whether in any way the inadequacy of staff and housing accommodation were the reasons for this suspension of work?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The hon. Member is correct in his presumption. It was really because of their demand for housing accommodation, and they pretended they were ill.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, how far granting medical certificates on an organised and universal scale is genuine and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I do not understand the question, Sir.

ROBBING OF PASSENGERS IN 14 DOWN UPPER INDIA EXPRESS TRAIN

*251. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the morning of the 10th November 1959 some dacoits entered a third class compartment of the 14 Down Upper India Express train and robbed the passengers of property in the running train after it had passed Firozabad station on the Northern Railway and then escaped;

(b) if so, whether the dacoits were armed with weapons;

(c) whether it is a fact that this is the fourth dacoity committed recently in running trains between Kanpur and Delhi; and

(d) if so, what measures Government are taking to avoid recurrence of such dacoities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) and (b). Yes Sir.

(c) This was the third case between Kanpur and Delhi.

(d) (i) State Government have been addressed to issue instructions to the police to exercise greater vigilance on undesirable characters moving on the Railways.

(ii) The Intelligence Branch of Railway Protection Force, in conjunction with the police keeps close surveillance on the criminals operating on Railways and passes on any intelligence collected to the District Police or the Government Railway Police, concerned.

(iii) The Armed wing of the R.P.F. is also escorting some passenger trains on notorious sections to assist the G.R.P.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DEATH OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DUE TO INJECTION OF PENICILLIN

1. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Member of Parliament died recently

within a minute of being injected with Penicillin;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of the Pimpri Factory has laid down certain new procedures for checking and testing the production of Penicillin;

(c) whether the Managing Director has any scientific qualifications;

(d) whether the number of deaths resulting from the use of Penicillin of this and similar batches has been ascertained; and

(e) whether the Scientific Committee charged with this matter has been asked to investigate?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) It is true that a Member of Parliament died soon after he was given an injection of Penicillin.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) So far as Government are aware, there has been no other fatal case arising out of administration of Pimpri penicillin.

(e) No Scientific Committee is at present charged with this matter.

12 Noon

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask my hon. friend, Sir, whether it is a fact that the present Managing Director of Hindustan Antibiotics, a layman, removed the Quality Control Department of the plant from the charge of the most senior scientist of the plant, not directly connected with production, and brought it under his own control?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the Managing Director of this concern is a top executive officer and is in overall administrative charge of all the departments including the Quality Control Department. I can say that he is thought to be a very competent officer.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Sir, my question is not answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question which he put was whether he removed the Quality Control Section from its independent charge and brought it under his own control.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am sorry. I will reply that important question. What he did was perhaps something better than what was happening earlier. The whole administration of the Pimpri Factory including Quality Control has always been in his charge as Managing Director. Ever since he held office, there has been no change. What he had changed, and rightly I think, was that instead of keeping Quality Control under the Production Officer, he has kept it independent of the Production Officer so that . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: If somebody says it is wrong, I will answer that also. But this is a matter of fact that he has taken it out of the control of the Production Officer, which was considered unsatisfactory, and kept it independent of the Production Officer.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: My question again is not answered by my learned friend. It is a very simple question. Did the Managing Director take the Quality Control out of the control of the scientist in charge and put it under his own charge?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There is nothing like "under his own charge"; he is in overall charge, let there be no doubt about it. He has not taken it out of anybody else's control and kept it in his own charge. He is in overall charge of the factory. Well, there is the Production Section, and there is the Quality Control Section. Formerly, the Quality Control Section was under the Production Section. Lest there should be any hanky-panky about it, he removed the Quality Control Section outside the Production Section so that the Quality Control Section may conduct its work independent of the Produc-

tion Section. And he is in overall charge of the factory.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is it a fact that Quality Control was under the charge of a senior scientist before it came in his charge?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. Quality Control is under the charge of as good a scientific officer as before. There is absolutely no change.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is it a fact that three tests were made of this particular batch, No. F. 1573(B) which was used on this hon. Member of Parliament who died as a result of this? Is it a fact that each one of these tests was a positive test for toxic result and, therefore, rejected?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. That is not my information. I will try to check it up.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will my hon. friend take this information from me that there were three tests originally.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I will not take this information from the hon. Member unless he gives some positive proof.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: I will do that. Is it a fact that these tests were made as prescribed under section 119(2) of the Drug Rules of 1945, but after this batch was found to be toxic the Managing Director ordered a fourth test?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I heard such vague rumours round about the lobbies of this House and the other House. Therefore, I made pointed enquiries from the Managing Director myself and he told me that it is absolutely untrue.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is my hon. friend prepared to send for the register which gives detailed information regarding these tests?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I am prepared to satisfy myself, but if my hon. friend has anything positive

against that, I am prepared to share that with him.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: I am very grateful to my hon. friend. What we are worried about in the present moment is the dangerous situation that has arisen as a result of particular methods being adopted for the testing of Pimpri production. All that we want is—and I hope my hon. friend will give us that guarantee—that the method of testing, according to the rules laid down under the Drugs Act, will be followed, and there will be no change in those methods as has happened in the case of this particular batch.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As against the contention of my hon. friend, what worries me most is an attempt to believe in unfounded allegations and growing doubts about a factory which has stood the best of our tests.

Regarding the other assurance, I have made myself quite sure that all the tests will be carried out and if my hon. friend is able to point out the least defect, I am prepared to have it corrected immediately, and without delay.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is my hon. friend aware of the allegation that I have made, namely, that the Drug Rules were not complied with in this particular instance? Is he prepared to give us a categorical answer that they were complied with?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have already given a categorical answer according to the best of information supplied to me. And I am prepared to categorically state that what my friend states is not a fact.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will my hon. friend send for the registers and place them on the Table of the House?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As I said earlier, if there is the least doubt about it, I am prepared to share the information, but I am not prepared to do so on vague allegations. I am pre-

pared to check the registers myself and satisfy myself.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: I want a clarification on one point. So far questions relating to the Penicillin factory have been answered by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Now, are we to understand that the control of that factory has passed to the Ministry of Health? If not, why is the Minister of Health answering the question?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sometimes hon. Members mix up questions connected with two Ministries. Here the question was whether it was true that a Member of Parliament died soon after he was injected with Penicillin. I was bound to answer that. I thought that it was not proper to transfer other parts of the question to the other Minister and I answered them on the best information supplied by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is a fact that the factory is not under my control.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Who is in control of this factory? Is it the Ministry of Health or is it the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Then why is my hon. friend answering these questions?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, shall I repeat what I said earlier?

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: I want to know the name of the senior scientific officer who was in immediate control of the testing operations and the name of the officer now, together with the length of his service and his qualifications.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In fairness to the House I shall give that information. I shall find out that information and place it before the House tomorrow.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: How is it that the hon. Minister said without knowing the facts that he was certain that no change had been made in respect of the officers concerned with the testing of the quality of the penicillin prepared in the Pimpri Factory?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The question was whether there had been a change made in the mechanism of standard control and I said there was none. Nor do I say that the same officers would continue over a period of years. But I have not got the details with me. I am quite sure in my mind that the drug control is exercised by a fully competent and qualified officer.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I would supplement the reply given by the hon. Minister. There has been no alteration as far as the control machinery is concerned. The only change effected was that previously the research man also was in charge of the quality control. The change now made was to make the quality control independent but remain under the overall control of the Managing Director as before. The same person continues to be in charge of quality control and the information I have got is that Dr. Kulkarni still continues to be the head of the quality control department.

We are also going into all the questions raised by the hon. Members. We are also making ourselves perfectly sure that all the tests that are being carried out would be independent of each other and I can assure the hon. House that we shall leave no step which would go to test the vials which are in our possession.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: There is a Committee appointed by the Government to advise them with regard to the technical side of the Penicillin Factory at Pimpri. Will Government then ask this Committee to go into this matter and submit a report?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As my hon. colleague replied to a similar question in the other House the other

day, this Committee was for a specific purpose and that was to suggest in what manner to replan the drug industry, in what manner the drug industry should function and in what manner the production of antibiotics should be expanded.

As far as this particular matter is concerned, I can assure the House that all the reports will be collated by the Drug Controller, reports received from various laboratories—we have sent one vial to Washington laboratory and one vial to London laboratory and one vial to Kasauli laboratory—and their findings will be gone into and will be placed before the House.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: What is the use of sending one vial to Washington and one vial to London? Why not send at least 10, 20 or 30 vials in order that they may see whether the Penicillin is contaminated, so that they can have checks and counter-checks?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The same thing is already being done, checks and counter-checks and it is necessary under the regulations of the Drug Control Act.

We have no objection to sending more vials if it satisfies the hon. Member. Instead of one, we can send ten vials.

(Interruptions)

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: What does the hon. Minister mean by saying that "We have no objection to sending more vials"? They should send more vials and they should send them direct to these Washington and London laboratories and not send them through the Pimpri Factory.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The vials are in the possession of the Safdarjang Hospital . . . (Interruptions.)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I think we should have an half-an-hour discussion over this matter.

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: So far as the testing of this drug is concerned, it was the Health Ministry that was concerned. When this matter came to

our notice, we asked not only the Commerce and Industry Ministry but also the Pimpri Factory to take up the matter. We have ourselves also taken up the matter. We have sent for the vials for testing and my own Drug Controller knows better about it than I myself. He is a very competent and experienced officer and we sent the necessary vials for testing to the Kasauli Institute, the Drug Institute at Calcutta and the Haffkine Institute. Even the drop or two that was left, was sent to the Kasauli Institute and it was found that Penicillin was anti-toxic. It was a vital question and we really wanted to know all we could know about it.

Regarding sending of more vials to London and Washington, it was felt that it was not necessary to send more vials by people who are more competent than myself and therefore we sent one vial to London and one vial to Washington. But if it satisfies my hon. friend, we shall be prepared to send not 8 but 9 vials.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Actually, 10 vials were sent to London and Washington.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: I think 10 more may be sent to each place. But I would like to know when there is a scientific committee connected with the technical side of this factory, what is the objection to its being asked to investigate this matter, particularly when this committee is being presided over by Sir Ramnath Chopra?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: May I say that this technical committee is not there for this particular purpose?

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: It does not matter. It is competent to investigate this matter and it can give a report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that he says is that to reassure the public which has developed certain apprehensions, will it not be wise for you to refer this particular matter to that committee, which is competent to look into it and which is presided over by Sir Ramnath Chopra? It is left to you.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: May I also add that the governing body of the Institute, which is naturally concerned with this problem and which is a scientific body, will go into this matter. It has eleven members—three are laymen and eight are scientists, and most of the scientists are members of the earlier committee. Among them are Dr. Pandit, who is the top Director in medical research. Dr. Jhalla, who is the Head of the Haffkine Institute and scientists of that calibre. We shall specially request the technical members to go into this matter and to tell us the right and wrong about it.

DR. M. D. D. GILDER: Is the hon. Minister aware that deaths from the use of Penicillin have been reported in other parts of the world also?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think more deaths are reported there than here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

*216. **DR. A. N. BOSE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at a meeting held under the auspices of the Hindi Association of Parliament and the Delhi Branch of the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti held on September 13, 1959, he said that Hindi was the national language of India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): The speech was delivered in Hindi and the terms used in Hindi were 'Rajya Bhasha' and 'Rashtra Bhasha' more or less, in the sense of the official language.

BAHUDA AND VAMSADHARA PROJECTS

*218. **SHRI DIBAKAR PATNAIK:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the Inter-State River Valley Projects, Bahuda

and Vamsadhara, are at present pending execution;

(b) when the work on the projects will start; and

(c) which of these two projects will be taken up by the State Governments concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(i) *Bahuda*.—The Government of Orissa requested the Central Water and Power Commission to take up detailed investigations of this Project. An estimate for carrying out investigations of the Bahuda Project was prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission and forwarded to the State Government for their concurrence. The Government of Orissa have now intimated that investigations will be carried out by their own engineers.

(ii) *Vamsadhara*.—The Central Water and Power Commission have completed the detailed investigations of the Project at Gudari Site and the draft investigation report has been sent to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa for consideration.

It is now for the two States to come to an agreement about the proposed dam at Gudari Site. Thereafter the Andhra Pradesh Government will modify the Vamsadhara Project report suitably and submit it to the Commission for examination.

BREAKING OUT OF FIRE IN KRISHI BHAVAN

*224. **SHRI P. A. SOLOMON:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in Krishi Bhavan, New