

export it. We thought that this would adversely affect the food situation in other States. Excepting for three subjects, the State Governments have been given all the powers to control the situation. The three subjects are price control, bank transactions and regulation of transport. If one State Government bans export, the other Governments would be adversely affected. In order that one State may not be adversely affected by the action of another State we have retained these powers.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: In view of the fact that the prices of foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh have not registered any notable decline, did the Government of India not take the interests of the consumers of Uttar Pradesh into consideration when it decided not to accept the recommendations of the State Government?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The Government of India equally takes into consideration the interests of all the citizens of India, not of any particular State.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: In view of the fact that the foodgrain prices in Uttar Pradesh are still at a high level and have not registered any decline excepting rice—barley, gram and wheat are still at a higher level—did the Government of India take this factor into consideration when taking that decision?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I think it would be totally wrong that the State which produces more than 90 per cent, of a particular commodity should be allowed to keep the whole of it to itself and deprive the rest of India of the use of that commodity.

ENQUIRY INTO THE LOSSES OF THE INDIAN
AIRLINES CORPORATION

•11. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 8 in the Rajya Sabha on September 25, 1958, and state whether

a Committee has since been appointed to enquire into the losses of the Indian Airlines Corporation; if so.—

(a) who are the members of the Committee;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take on the re-r commendations of the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL,
AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): Not yet, Sir.

(a) to (c). Do not arise.

DR. R. B. GOUR: How long will it take the Government to appoint a Committee to go into the cost structure of the Indian Airlines Corporation?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I expect that it will be appointed soon.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Soon means what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Soon means, what?" That is what he asks.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Exactly, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the time-limit?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: We have had some difficulties. I cannot say what will be the meaning of soon but we are trying to expedite.

DR. R. B. GOUR: What are the ■ difficulties? That is what we would like to know.

(No reply)

SPREAD OF CANCER IN ASSAM

*12. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that cancer is spreading; rapidly in the State of Assam; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to make an enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Government have no information to show that cancer is spreading rapidly in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

I should like to add that we have called for a report from the Assam Government in this matter.

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: I want to know whether the Government will allot one unit for Assam after the enquiry report is received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In reply to the question whether cancer is spreading rapidly you said, "Government have no information". You also said that you have asked the Assam State Government to submit a report.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I said that the Government have no information to show that cancer is spreading rapidly in Assam. We do not propose to hold any enquiry about that but we have asked for a report from the Assam Government.

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: I want to know whether, after the report is received, the Central Government will allot one unit from the Colombo Plan.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Cobalt plant?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a hypothetical question, "after the enquiry", "if you find" and so on.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: After the enquiry, if a request is made . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will consider it favourably.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Central Government has any machinery in the States for keeping itself abreast of the

spread or otherwise of such deadly diseases as cancer. If so, I want to know whether the machinery is working in Assam or not.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have a very good machinery but that is only regarding the diseases like cholera, small-pox etc. We have the fortnightly report from every State Government. Cancer is not found to be such a rampant disease as to call for a fortnightly report. About cancer, we get information when questions are asked and when we find it necessary. Otherwise, we have no periodical information about cancer as such.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Am I to understand that there has been no reference whatsoever in the fortnightly medical reports about cancer and that the Ministry came to know of it only when the question was tabled?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As I said earlier, we get information about the general epidemics, cholera, smallpox, etc. These are diseases which are occurring often and we do get information about these diseases periodically. About cancer as such we have no periodical information. That has not yet been found to be of such a formidable type.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Recently, it appeared in the papers that cancer is spreading in some parts of India. May I know the causes for the spreading of this disease which is supposed to be spreading in all parts of India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have no reason to believe that cancer is spreading. So far as men are concerned there are reasons to believe that cancer is largely due to tobacco chewing and tobacco smoking.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if a survey was ever made to find out the actual percentage of people suffering from cancer?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. No survey has yet been made on a large scale. We have good hospitals. In Bombay for instance the Tata Memorial Hospital has made an analysis of the cases that they have "treated but there has been no national survey as we did recently in the case of T. B.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Is it not necessary that a survey should be made regarding cancer and its incidence in the whole of India? It is a dread disease and if there is any disease from which people suffer so acutely and terribly, is it not the duty of the Government to undertake such surveys?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Our primary duty is to put up hospitals to look after cancer cases and we are helping the institutions including an institution in Madras in respect of cancer but we take up surveys only in cases where the incidence, on a general view, is rather universal. In this matter of cancer we have no reasons to believe that cancer is spreading fast and we do not want to create any unnecessary scare.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: I want to know how the Minister can believe that there is no increase in the incidence of cancer when he has not taken a survey. On what statistics does he base his statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not want to say whether it is on the increase or on the decrease. He said he is awaiting report.

NORTH-EAST FRONTIER ZONE

*13. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of quarters for the staff and the office building at Pandu; and

(b) what is the scheduled date for the completion of this project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) The scheme has been divided into two phases. The work of phase I is in progress. About 80 per cent of the accommodation for the staff and 40 per cent of the office accommodation has been provided so far. The work of phase II is being taken in hand.

(b) About March, 1961.

Sir, I might add that the total cost is Rs. 1,65,00,000.

RAILWAY LOW-LYING LANDS IN GAUHATI TOWN

*14. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have improved the railway low-lying lands in Gauhati town by filling them up with earth;

(b) if so, whether this work has affected the drainage system of the town; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to construct some big culverts under the railway lines in the town?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIAN KILLED IN THE BRITISH SUPER TANKER 'STANVAC JAPAN'

*15. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who were killed in the British Super Tanker 'Stanvac Japan' disaster on the 20th October, 1958;

(b) whether these persons were permanent employees or temporary ones; and