

undesirable elements, of certain people who may be engaged in subversive activities, enemies of our country, well, their movements it may be necessary to watch everywhere. Therefore, such discrimination may be there in respect of them. But in respect of others, I do not see why this rigidity should be strictly adhered to as has been the practice so far.

Now, about the All-India Services. Well, as I have said, by itself it does not promise very much. It only offers us an opportunity and the point is how we use this opportunity. In this connection I would like to make a few suggestions. Probably we are now projecting another aspect of our administration to Jammu and Kashmir. That is the first thing to remember. Therefore, we should be concerned as to how we recruit the people there, what sort of men we place there and how these people fulfil their functions as administrators. Whether they are members of the All-India Administrative Service or the Indian Police Service, very much will depend on how they actually function. They must be given their assignments properly. They must be so trained and educated that they know exactly what tasks await them there. This is very important. You will say that this applies to every State. Yes, it does apply to every State; but then Kashmir has its own problems. We need not go into them here. We know that Kashmir is a State where from across the border guns are pointed at us, at the people of Kashmir from across the border. We know that there are certain anti-Indian elements, anti-Kashmir elements who are interested in exploiting the discontent and inconveniences of the people for serving certain nefarious ends.

We also know how a little maladministration and a little act of commission or omission in the wrong direction gives a handle to the Imperialist powers, Britain and the United States in particular, to raise a big noise about Kashmir. We should bear this in mind. Therefore, it is important for us, we should give particular attention

to the administration in Kashmir and not treat it in the old routine manner. That is the point I want to make in this connection. This is very important from the administration's point of view. Here, I must offer a criticism against the Government of India.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE CASES OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS IN DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): With regard to the Motion that was made before this House, I should like to inform the House of the facts connected with the incidence of gastro-enteritis. There have been two localities which have been identified and localised. I should like to tell the House that these summer months are the season when there is a sporadic incidence of gastro-enteritis in Delhi. Last year, there were 89 cases with three deaths during the months of May to August. This year, however, there have been two major outbreaks of the disease involving larger groups of population at Trinagar and Sarai Khalil. The Trinagar group of villages is located off Rohtak Road near the Industrial area and was originally outside the municipal limits. This place, I should like to tell the House, has grown recently, in the last four to five years. Now, the area has been outside the municipal limits and does not have a sewerage system or public tap water supply. There are no public latrines and hydrants. First cases of gastro-enteritis were reported on the 6th and 9th instant and since then there have been altogether 42 seizures with 7 deaths. I understand that in that locality, the Corporation have carried out 9,000 cholera inoculations till yesterday and all the 40 wells in that area have been disinfected and rigorous anti-fly measures are being taken in the way of clearing dump heaps and filth, etc. I understand that the disease has been brought under control in that area.

The other area, that is Sarai Khalil, is a slum area in what is known as the

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]
Sadar Bazar locality with a population of about 5,000. Now, with regard to that, my latest information is this: A number of cases, with acute symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea, have occurred in the Serai Khalil area, near Sadar Bazar, since the forenoon of Saturday, the 23rd August, 1958. The first cases are reported to have occurred at about 11 A.M. that day, but unfortunately no information was conveyed to the Health Department of the Corporation till about 8 P.M. When the Health authorities arrived on the spot soon after, they found that 5 persons had already died, and other cases were in various stages of illness. Immediate steps were taken to send all these cases to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and to make a detailed survey of the area for discovering other cases, if any, giving treatment on the spot, inoculating the population and disinfecting the houses and their surroundings. A temporary dispensary has also been set up.

The total number of cases admitted in the hospital was 70 till yesterday; this morning another five or six cases have been admitted. That makes about 75 or 76. Barring 4 or 5 cases from other adjoining localities, all these have occurred in Serai Khalil itself. The total number of deaths during these two days has been 11. A clinical study of the hospital cases suggests that they are probably cases of acute gastro-enteritis. A laboratory analysis of samples of stools etc. is under way, but the results will not be known till this evening. Meanwhile, it is the view of the public health authorities that these are unlikely to be cases of cholera and that there is no cause for panic.

As regards the probable causes of this occurrence, it was noticed that water from a sealed well in the locality was being largely used by the population and is probably the underlying cause. The well has been in existence for many years, but its water is being analysed. Meanwhile, supply from the well has been cut off and additional

pipied water hydrants are being installed for the use of the public. Till these are ready, water is being supplied by tankers. Sir, it is thought that a private dry latrine, about 10 yards from the well, has probably, by underground seepage, contaminated the well water.

This with regard to the actual facts of the occurrence. Regarding the measures which the Corporation health authorities are taking, the Corporation and the N.D.M.C. have taken the following measures:

(1) Dose of chlorination of filtered water has been increased from 0.8 parts per million to 1.5 parts per million, that is, almost double.

(2) Alternative sources of water, such as wells, which are being extensively used as sources of drinking water, are being regularly disinfected with bleaching powder.

(3) The public has been advised to boil all drinking water—by radio announcement, beat of drums and through microphones.

(4) Anti-cholera inoculation campaign has been intensified in comparatively more vulnerable localities, viz., those with sub-standard sanitary facilities.

(5) Anti-fly measures have been intensified. Insecticide (DDT/Gamma-xine) spraying is in full swing in slum areas. One round of spraying has already been completed.

(6) Campaign against the sale of unwholesome and exposed foodstuffs is being vigorously carried out.

(7) All field staff has been alerted to be more vigilant to improve the standard of general sanitation in the city.

(8) Dispensaries, Hospitals and M.C.H. Centres have been asked to ensure adequate stocks of essential drugs to treat gastro-enteritis patients, and finally, Sir,

(3) Strict vigilance is being exercised to prevent ice and mineral water factories from using water from unsafe sources

This, Sir, is the factual position

SHRI V K DHAGE (Bombay) May I ask one question of the hon Minister? The hon Minister said that one area is outside the municipal limits and the other area is within the municipal limits. Is that correct?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR That was before the creation of the Corporation

SHRI V K DHAGE Gastro-enteritis has broken out in two areas, one area is outside the municipal limits and the other is within the municipal limits

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I meant that it was not in the municipal area before the Corporation came into existence. There was a municipal area and there was a district board area. That area was under the Board

SHRI V K DHAGE The cause of this disease seems to be the use of water from a sealed well

SHRI D P KARMARKAR The cause of the disease so far ascertainable seems to be the contamination of the water in the well by a latrine which is situated at a near-distance to that well

SHRI V K DHAGE Such being the case, what did the Government do to see that this contamination did not take place, particularly in view of the shortage of water that occurred a few days ago?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR Even in regard to the water shortage as my hon friend might be knowing after the water shortage of last Monday, in collaboration with the military authorities, the Corporation authorities took all possible steps. In the case of this particular well, excepting for the hand-pumped water, the well was a sealed-off, but, it was used to a larger extent during the water shortage. That was

the position till the 23rd. There was no cause for any complaint of any type. After the outbreak of the disease in that area, when they went into the matter, they found—it is still under investigation—that the possibility was the contamination of the water of that well by a latrine which is situated nearby, by the seepage of the contents of the latrine into that well.

SHRI V K DHAGE The point is this. In view of the shortage of water, Government might certainly expect that this will be utilised to a larger extent by the people living round about the area and, if the contamination was likely to take place, what did the Government do to prevent such an outbreak?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR As I said earlier, my present information is that the whole well was sealed off excepting for the hand-pump portion. It is possible that they did not anticipate this that there will be seepage from the latrine during the last three or four days.

SHRI V K DHAGE Mine is a larger question. In view of the shortage that was taking place, Government could certainly expect that people will resort to taking water wherever it was available. In view of this, Government could expect some epidemic to break out. If they anticipated that, what measures did they take to prevent it?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR In the town as a whole, our people—the Corporation sanitary officers and the military officers—went round and tried to see to it that as many of the wells as possible were cleaned, treated chemically and things like that. So far as my present information goes, this seems to have been a completely covered well.

DR R B GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): May I ask the hon Minister if it is a fact that the Corporation had resolved three months ago that the wells which were being used for taking drinking water therefrom by the citizens should

[Dr R B Gour]

be disinfected and, if so, is it a fact that this step was not taken until the breakdown did occur and even after the breakdown occurred bleaching powder was put in the wells only after the army took the work over and not before that, and you know there was a time-lag of twenty-four hours before the army took it over from the civil authorities?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR As my hon friend knows, the whole thing happened so suddenly and it took such a long time. The whole thing happened after Monday morning and then the army took over. I need not, Sir, repeat the whole facts. Till Sunday morning there was no breakdown of water. All the 62 million gallons of water were being pumped out Sunday afternoon, Sunday night and then Monday, and the army came on the scene after almost thirty-six hours after the water shortage actually commenced so that there was not much of a time gap between the army coming in and the civil authorities alone functioning, and so far as my information goes, as soon as the situation was envisaged they began to take steps about cleaning of wells also, and a number of them are in the city of Delhi and they began that process. Now as the hon House will be aware, so far as this gastro-enteritis is concerned this epidemic is concerned, it is localised in two definite localities and my obvious inference is that it has not spread elsewhere and it is due to the great vigilance exercised by the authorities concerned.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN One at a time please. This is not Question Hour. Dr Gour.

DR R B GOUR Will the hon Minister tell us as to from how many wells water has been taken for examination and in how many wells bleaching powder has been put in

during this time? Also there are the people using them the well water, even without a breakdown of water supply, and is it not a regular duty of the Corporation to see that that water is properly disinfected and that periodical examinations of the water are undertaken to see that the water was fit for use? If so, had they been doing it?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I agree that it is the duty of the Corporation to see that all wells whose water is being used are kept clean. There is no question of any difference of opinion about that. As to the number of wells which were treated by bleaching powder and as to when it was done I should like to have notice.

DR R P DUBE (Madhya Pradesh) I want to ask one question. Is it a fact that some cases have been imported into Delhi?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR Yes, Sir, that is a fact. That is a fact which was brought to my notice this morning in a letter by the Commissioner to an officer of ours. It is dated the 25th August, this morning, and it came to my hands just ten minutes back. "Subsequent investigations suggest that the well referred to has been infected through the latrine by a carrier who came to that house on the 16th of August from a village near Muzzafarnagar in the U.P. That person before coming here is reported to have had a similar attack from which she recovered. There had apparently been seven or eight cases in that village two or three of which had proved fatal." This is contained in a letter received by me this morning subject to further investigation. Before investigating it I thought it was unfair to share it with the House. But that is the information that I have received, the latest.

DR R P DUBE I want to ask why cholera injections have been given when you say that it is gastro-

enteritis and when it is not proved that it has cholera germs.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: During this season,—it is cholera season as my friend knows and he is ^{an} eminent doctor to whom I look forward for advice in this regard and also in connection with my other work sometimes,—because this is cholera season anti-cholera inoculations are being given to prevent any recrudescence of cholera.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: (Uttar Pradesh): Just one question, Sir. May I know whether it is a fact that the area in which this well is situated and which is said to be contaminated has not got any water supply from the Municipal Corporation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: This is a fact; there is no adequate public water supply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said that earlier in his statement.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Because of the scarcity of water people were using that. What was the normal condition?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said so in his earlier statement.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI (Madras): Is it not cholera, and is it not quite different from gastro-enteritis? Are we to treat one instead of the other? That is number one. Number two, if there was shortage of water through municipal supply to certain areas and if there were the wells which were resorted to for water supply at that time, preventive measures should have been taken to maintain well water pure. Is it not essential that preventive measures should have been taken? The third is we seem to

look for cure after the thing has happened. At least in future may I request the Health Ministry or those organisations that are concerned that preventive measures are foreseen and provided for?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think in fairness to the House also I should like to answer. With regard to the last part of it I shall have to begin from the beginning of public health administration itself. My hon. friend knows that, whether in Delhi or in other big towns, during particular seasons particular preventive measures are taken and they are in the process of being taken and there is no question about it. With regard to the sudden outbreak like this it has been localised, as I said, in Trinagar and here the epidemic is possibly due to the contamination of well water by a latrine and this, as I said, is subject to further investigation. Till this unfortunate occurrence occurred we had no reasons. In fact, Sir, I should not be unfair to the Corporation also. This is a thing which the Corporation till recently could not come to know of and did not anticipate, and this gastro-enteritis is the first major ailment that has broken out in Delhi. I do hope, Sir, that there will not be a recrudescence of this disease. They are taking all measures to put an end to it. It is only the other day that I said in the House that, when almost the whole of the country was suffering from small pox and from cholera, from things like that, Delhi had been immune from them, and I think part of the credit for this should go to the municipal authorities who had been vigilant about taking all preventive measures.

THE ALL INDIA SERVICES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958—continued.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am conscious that