

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Not only venereal but all diseases—leprosy, small-pox, cholera, etc.

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: In respect of all diseases, they are subject to the first test as prescribed for that purpose, and this aspect of the question is gone into by research scholars. Regarding food . . .

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: What are the results?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: All results are well-known. For instance, in respect of cholera, especially in an endemic from, it is conveyed through rotten food. Regarding venereal disease, it is not food that is relevant but personal contact. In respect of leprosy food is supposed to have something to do with it, and also contact—these two items are supposed to be largely responsible for the spread of leprosy.

SHRIMATI AMMU SWAMINADHAN: May I know, with regard to leprosy, whether the Government is giving aid to the voluntary associations which are running homes for lepers?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: They are giving.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Is it a fact that leprosy is not caused by food but it is caused by personal contact with lepers?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Especially the children contract it from their parents, that is supposed to be the principal reason. It is also because it happens to be in certain areas, and there poverty and leprosy have been found to go together.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the menace of lepers begging openly on the crowded pavements in Delhi and New Delhi, and if so, what action has been taken to prevent this menace?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Till now the Delhi administration have not been able to take effective measures.

I understand that they take them thirty miles away and leave them, and then they come back again.

*422. [The questioner (Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan) was absent. For answer, vide Cols. 244-45, infra.]

*423 and *424. [Postponed to 16th September, 1958.]

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND LHASA

*425. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government to run air service between India and Lhasa; and

(b) if so, which are the places likely to be touched by this service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know whether at any time a survey was made as regards the possibilities of this airline?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: No survey was made, Sir, regarding running of air services to Lhasa. No survey was made.

MULTI-PURPOSE BLOCKS SET UP IN SCHEDULED AREAS IN BIHAR

*426. SHRI T. BODRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multi-purpose Blocks set up in the Scheduled Areas in Bihar;

(b) the amount so far spent in those Blocks; and

(c) whether any one has been deputed on behalf of the Central Government to assess the cumulative physical achievements in each of those Blocks?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. K. DEY):

(a) Eight.