

that, the water-supply could not be said to be as good as filtered water. Apart from this difficulty of giving water-supply of a doubtful quality, these wells also become breeding places for mosquitoes and other things—particularly where the sanitation should be high. In view of the growing difficulties of Delhi and New Delhi as a result of unplanned growth of habitation, we do not propose to provide one more source of nuisance.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I ask whether the Minister knows that the hand pumps and well water saved the people during the water scarcity previously in the capital from disaster, and whether he is personally in favour of multiplying the system throughout the city?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am afraid I don't agree with the hon. Member. We should rather try to increase the quantity of filtered water-supply from a safer source than the wells. In fact 56 of 61 wells had been closed seventeen years back, and we do not propose to open them up again. They have been sealed.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that in New Delhi itself many colonies of displaced persons get their drinking water only from hand pumps and wells?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As I said, 45 wells are there which we have no other alternative but to keep open. They are in the labour bustees. They can be closed when the bustees are removed or else when filtered water is made available to them in adequate quantity.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: The hon. Minister said that river water was better than well water. Does he mean to say that river water is better even if he is unable to stop the floating dead bodies from contaminating that water?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

DR. R. P. DUBE: May I know whether mosquitoes have really decreased? I think they have increased in the last five years.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think also they have increased unhappily due to the large growth of slum dwellings and quarters of that kind.

AUGMENTATION OF DELHI'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

*536. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Punjab have formulated a scheme to augment Delhi's drinking water supply;

(b) whether the Union Government have examined the feasibility and the financial implication of the scheme; and

(c) when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) At the instance of the Technical Committee set up by the Government of India in May 1958 to go into the question of the augmentation of Delhi's water supply, the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), Punjab has prepared two tentative schemes for augmenting Delhi's drinking water supply.

(b) and (c). These schemes are under the examination of the Technical Committee and if they are approved, they will be passed on to the Delhi Municipal Corporation for necessary action. If for implementing the schemes, the Delhi Municipal Corporation require any loan their request will be duly considered by Government.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that the implementation of this scheme is being held up owing to financial implications?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In fact it is too early to go into the financial implications. As I said, this high power Committee is going into the matter and it has proposed these two schemes. When it comes to the finalisation stage, I do hope that the question of finances will not stand in the way of augmentation of water supply in Delhi.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: I would like the Minister to clear up a matter of general interest. In part (a) of the question there is a reference to the Government of the Punjab which is supposed to be formulating a scheme, and in the reply the hon. Minister has referred to the Delhi Municipal Corporation. May I know which is the body responsible for the supply of water to Delhi and New Delhi?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: For New Delhi the New Delhi Municipal Committee undertakes only the distribution of water. It gets its supplies from the Municipal Corporation sources. Regarding water-supply arrangements for the Municipal Corporation area, it is the Water and Sewage Disposal Committee of the Municipal Corporation that is directly responsible for the supply of water.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I know whether the Delhi Municipal authorities are under the control of the Ministry of Health?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Prior to the establishment of the Corporation they were under our control. But now they are absolutely under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Then why does not the Home Minister answer these questions? Why is my friend answering these questions?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is an arrangement which I should very much like to have changed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Minister said that he referred this

question to the Chief Engineer, Punjab. I do not know how the Government of Punjab is concerned with this matter and would like to know whether they have in Delhi no competent engineer who can look after this work better than the Punjab Chief Engineer.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: With a view to solving the difficult Delhi water supply, we have to rely also upon the Punjab and U.P. Governments for alternative solution regarding this problem of augmentation of water supply. Therefore, a high-powered committee was appointed, as I said, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D., Mr. Rijhwani, also including, among the other five members, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, U.P. or his representative, and the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Punjab or his representative, because the possible sources of water supply also have to do vitally either with the Punjab Government or the U.P. Government.

FOREIGN DOCTORS IN THE CHILDREN
HOSPITAL IN THE PREMISES OF LADY
HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE,
NEW DELHI

*537. **DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARAMANAND:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) (i) the number of foreign doctors at the Children Hospital functioning in the premises of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, New Delhi; (ii) their qualifications and nationalities; (iii) the number of houses assigned to these persons; (iv) the number of Indian doctors in this hospital; and (v) the reason for continuing the foreign experts; and

(b) whether the posts held by these foreigners were advertised for being filled by our nationals; and whether any women doctors have been trained under these foreign experts?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). A