

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: The place is a very small village. Can a small village like Ghattaprabha supply enough patients for two huge institutions?

SHRI S. K. DEY: The State Government claims that this hospital caters to a very large area and even the project consists of a population of about 3 lakhs.

***346.** [The questioner (Shri H. V. Tripathi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2742-43 infra.]

POPULARISING ELECTROCULTURE TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

•347. SHRI M. D. TUMPALLIWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to popularise electroculture with a view to increasing the agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : Government have no such proposal under consideration as electroculture has not been found to be a useful technique for increasing agricultural production.

SHRI M. D. TUMPALLIWAR: May I know whether the Government are aware that such experiments are being carried out by private individuals?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes. Government is aware of these experiments. The Government have themselves tried these experiments and ultimately came to the conclusion that although there is some improvement in the yields, it is 'not attributable to the appliance of electric current.

SHRI M. D. TUMPALLIWAR: May I know whether the Government are aware that such experiments have given tremendous benefit to those who tried them in their own farms?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: At least the experts who tried the experi-

ments for Government came to a different conclusion.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware that by the utilisation of isotopes, proper and rational utilisation of manures, especially chemical fertilizers could be regulated?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, we are quite aware of the utility of isotopes. But that is a different subject on which researches are going on.

***348.** [The questioner (Shri K. Suryanarayana) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2743-44 infra.]

REMEDIAL STEPS FOR CHECKING TUBERCULOSIS IN DELHI

*349. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what remedial steps are being taken to check tuberculosis in Delhi and the adjoining areas;

(b) what is the number of beds in the tuberculosis hospitals at Delhi; and

(c) whether any arrangement has been made elsewhere for the admission of tuberculosis patients from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) A statement showing the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) 1160 beds.

(c) Arrangements have been made only in respect of Central Government servants and their families covered by the Contributory Health Service and suffering from T. B. and indigent displaced T. B. patients who have not been able to get accommodation in a Delhi hospital.