

LEPROSY IN INDIA

*357. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of persons suffering from leprosy in the country is on the increase; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : No data is available to show that the number of persons suffering from leprosy is on the increase.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if every kind of leprosy is contagious?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Burnt out cases are not contagious; other types of leprosy are contagious.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Government are taking any steps to distinguish between the two types of leprosy?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The distinction is quite easy.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What steps Government is taking in the interests of the public to distinguish them in the villages and other parts of the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have a definite scheme in operation. We have encouraged the establishment of what are called subsidiary centres. Till now 70 subsidiary centres have been established, the function of the centres being to go round and find out leprosy patients and it is easy for experts as I said, to distinguish the burnt out cases apart from the contagious cases, and treatment is given.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: May I know if leprosy is regarded as a curable disease now?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The peculiar characteristic of leprosy is that when leprosy does its worst it

becomes completely innocuous. When a man's fingers, feet and everything go deformed, thereafter he is absolutely a safe patient in the sense that he does not spread the disease. Therefore, in one sense it is incurable because it requires a long treatment and one is not sure but at the end of it, when a man gets completely deformed, he becomes a non-contagious patient.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Is there anything being done to rehabilitate leprosy whose disease has been arrested?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: A few efforts are being made but largely financial considerations are a deterrent factor in this matter. We would like to enlarge the kind of measures that we would like to take.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that there are so many lepers in Hardwar and Laksh-manjhoola sitting on the roads? Not only there is the danger of the spread of the disease but they create a very bad sight for the people who go there and they give room for propaganda against our country. It is the case in other towns also.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I agree with the hon. Member that it is an undesirable sight but it is for the State Governments to take such measures to see these people are segregated.

SHRIMATI AMMU SWAMINADHAN: I wanted to ask something like the same question as was asked by Mr. Prithviraj Kapoor. But I would like to know what the Government is doing with regard to these lepers who are wandering about in different cities and whether the Government is helping some of the homes which are being run by voluntary organisations.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. We are trying to help such homes. For instance, in Delhi we found, on an average, 300 to 400 lepers patients and

for them a special home has been created and all of them were shifted. But it was found difficult to compel them to stay there. Half of them came back to Connaught Circus and began to beg there. But we are trying our best to see that such patients are diverted to these homes.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Is it not a fact that at the stage of disintegration of a person afflicted with leprosy, it is most dangerous? The hon. Minister pointed out that when that stage is reached, it is harmless I just want a clarification on that. Secondly, what is being done to investigate into the number of stall-holders with affliction of leprosy who are still allowed to sell things?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two questions together. You said that burnt out cases were safe. Are you sure? That is what she wants to know.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have got a bunch of medical advice with me and I am quite sure that completely burnt out cases are completely innocuous and they can mix with society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Her next question was, what are you doing with stall-holders who are afflicted with leprosy?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That question I have already answered partly.

श्री. पां० ना० राजभोज : मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं पहले सवाल पूछना चाहता था, लेकिन दूसरे लोग खड़े हो गये, इसलिए पूछ नहीं सका। तो मैं यह पूछ रहा हूँ कि यह कृपा करके बताइये कि इस महा रोग के कितने केन्द्र हैं ?

श्री डॉ० पी० करमरकर : मैंने पहले बताया कि सरकारी तौर से जो केन्द्र खोले गये हैं वे ७४ हैं और उन केन्द्रों की पापुलेशन

१० लाख से ज्यादा है। उसमें से ३६ हजार पेसेंट्स निकले हैं और उनका ट्रीटमेंट किया जाता है।

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF HUMAN BEINGS

*358. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether artificial insemination of human beings is being practised in our country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : Yes, Sir. The number of cases of artificial insemination however appears to be very negligible in this country. I should like to make it clear that there are only-two centres.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : यह जवाब मैंने सुना नहीं, कृपा करके फिर बताइये। इतनी जल्दी जल्दी जवाब दे रहे हैं कि मैं कुछ सुन नहीं सका।

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, the number of cases of artificial insemination however appears to be very-negligible in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the meaning of 'however'?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Because I said, 'yes, Sir', I used the word 'however'.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : मैंने हिन्दी में जवाब पूछा था तो अंग्रेजी में क्यों जवाब दिया? कृपा करके हिन्दी में जवाब दीजिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN: When a question is put in English, the answer is given in English.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : अब मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या इस प्रश्न पर रिसर्च हो रही है? दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह बात कानून के विरुद्ध है?