

SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Is the Government aware that the land provided to them is also being taken away from them?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I did not catch the question, Sir.

SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: The land that is being provided to the tenants' co-operative societies for the last twenty-five years being taken away today.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am not aware of it.

श्री राम सहाय : मेरा निवेदन यह है कि क्या किसी ने इस तरह की कोई रिपोर्ट पेश की है या नहीं ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : यदि आनरेबल मेम्बर के दिमाग में कोई खास रिपोर्ट है जिसके बारे में कहना है, अगर मुझे उसकी कुछ याद दिलायें तब तो मैं बतलाने की कोशिश करूंगा।

श्री राम सहाय : क्या जर्मनी के किसी डाक्टर ने कोई रिपोर्ट पेश की है ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : मेरे ध्यान में जर्मनी का कोई डाक्टर, नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 273.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: May we take 282 also along with this, Sir? That question has a bearing on question No. 273.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Deb, he wants to answer your question also now.

SHRI S. C. DEB: All right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall take both the questions together, 273 and 282.

MANUFACTURE OF ANTIDOTE TO INFLUENZA AT PASTEUR INSTITUTE

***273. SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, has manufactured any antidote to influenza; and

(b) if so, in what quantities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Anti-Influenza vaccine is under preparation at the Government of India Influenza Centre at the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor.

(b) Three thousand doses of the vaccine will be ready by the end of August 1957.

LOW-COST INFLUENZA VACCINE

***282. SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a low-cost vaccine has been developed to combat influenza on a mass scale? If so, do Government propose to obtain such vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): A small quantity of influenza vaccine prepared from the strain of the virus responsible for the current epidemic, was being offered by certain countries at a cost of approximately 6 shillings per dose.

The Government of India do not consider it necessary to import influenza vaccine from abroad especially in view of the cost involved and the temporary nature of immunity it ensures.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was any vaccine prepared at Coonoor to meet the epidemic that spread recently in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As my hon. friend knows, this epidemic came suddenly. Now, for producing vaccine, we have to have samples from the blood of the patients suffering from influenza. From them, the virus is isolated and a vaccine is prepared on the strength of that virus. There was no time to produce any vaccine because that epidemic came fairly suddenly and, therefore, it was not possible to produce any vaccine to meet that.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether Government have thought of any plan for the large-scale manufacture of this vaccine in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, our idea is to manufacture vaccine sufficient for immunizing the key personnel. In matters like the present influenza epidemic, we are not quite sure if at all another wave comes in that that epidemic will be of the same kind as this one and any immunity based upon the samples obtained now will be an antidote against the other epidemic. So, we are taking limited precaution and manufacturing sufficient vaccine to immunize, if the strain is the same as the earlier one, all the key personnel.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I ask a general question arising out of Question No. 273? What is the principle on which institutes for the manufacture of vaccines and drugs are allocated to the different Ministries? I am asking the question because this question is directed to the Ministry of Health. But a few days ago my question about the penicillin factory was directed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. What I would like to know is on what rational basis these allocations are made to the different Ministries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the Prime Minister to answer.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should not judge over the rationality of the distribution but I would welcome penicillin also if it comes to Health Ministry. But that is another matter.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: What is the total number of people who suffered from this epidemic this year in the whole country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am afraid I have not got the exact figure.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: It may be approximate.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is lakhs and lakhs and lakhs.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: May I know, Sir, how long has this epidemic been in the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: So far as I remember it came to us in May and I am sorry to have to say that the incidence is still there in parts of a few States. Otherwise the epidemic has been brought under control.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: In view of the fact that a person is afflicted not once but again and even a third time and the fact that the effect of being afflicted by influenza is so devastating, is it not the duty of the Government and the Ministry to take immediate steps to investigate into the matter, to set up an investigation bureau to find out the causes of and the cure for, influenza? It is really a tragedy.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I am grateful to my hon. friend since it gives me an opportunity to reply. To state it briefly there is no need for any separate bureau under the Health Ministry since in the Health Ministry and in the various States there is already a sufficient organization. Now regarding the incidence, as my hon. friend doubtless knows, it spread from one end of the world to another and it is very difficult to prevent that incidence spreading once it is on its way. Then there is no foolproof remedy for meeting the influenza after it comes and I must say that, apart from the measures that we might take, much depends upon public co-operation because it has been found that this epidemic has often a large incidence in areas of congested localities where insanitary conditions prevail. For instance the incidence in New Delhi so far is very little as compared to that in old Delhi. Therefore, I should appeal for public co-operation in this matter.

DR. R. B. GOUR: In view of the infection that is caused by a number of strains of influenza virus and in view also of the fact that it is absolutely illusory to think that a proper influenza vaccine could be prepared in the immediate course of time, will the Ministry make a clear declaration that the people need not bank on such a

vaccine from Coonoor so that the people may seek alternative methods to try to spare themselves from its spread? There is a lot of illusion about it that the vaccine is coming from Coonoor.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: People should not be in that confusion and I may tell the House that we should not rely upon that vaccine because we are not sure of the new epidemic that might come and we cannot rely upon the vaccine that we might prepare now to combat that new epidemic and the strain may not be the same strain. Otherwise the disease will be one and the vaccine will be another.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: It is a new discovery that the largest number of cases occur in congested areas. People living in good localities and in large bungalows have been affected by this.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, Unhappily those people go to cinemas and the like and fall a victim.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: The hon. Minister said that a large sum may have to be spent on foreign exchange to get foreign medicine but, Sir, does the Government know that many suggestions have been made by the Ayurvedic doctors about indigenous medicines? Has the Government taken any action to investigate them or has the Government given any thought to it?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, whenever any suggestion is made regarding any foolproof remedy for any ailment we have it carefully examined, but it is my misfortune to tell this House that not one remedy that is suggested can be accepted as a remedy in this case because it is no foolproof remedy.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Cannot mass inoculation be given to minimise the range of the epidemic.

(No reply.)

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: We want an answer, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be done with success.

आन्तरिक जलमार्गों के लिए ठोस योजना

*२७४. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि देश में आन्तरिक जलमार्गों के विकास की ठोस योजना को क्रियान्वित करने में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?

†[MASTER PLAN FOR INLAND WATERWAYS]

*274. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the progress so far made towards the implementation of the Master Plan for the development of inland waterways in the country?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री हुमायूँ कबीर): सेंट्रल वाटर एण्ड पावर कमीशन ने देश के अन्दरूनी जलपथों के विकास के लिये जो मास्टर प्लान बनाया, वह प्लान का खाली ढांचा है। इस योजना को काम में लाने के सवाल पर विचार करने से पहले काफी जांच-पड़ताल दरकार होगी। सरकार ने जो इंग्लैंड वाटर ट्रांसपोर्ट कमेटी मुक़र्रर की उनको कहा गया कि मास्टर प्लान को विचार करके अपनी सिफारिशें दें। कमेटी की इन्क्वायरी अभी जारी है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): The Master Plan for the development of inland waterways prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission is only an outline plan. Detailed investigations are necessary before the question of its implementation can be considered. The Committee on Inland Water Transport

†[English translation.]