

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I think, Sir, it is a very simple incident to which a lot of importance had been attached. The train was running between two stations at about three in the afternoon. The driver saw some flash and something hard hit the engine. He heard the noise. He went on to the next station and they thought that it was a shot that had been fired at the train. If it was a shot, Sir, it was of a muzzle loading gun. Probably some *shikari* or somebody had fired at something else which accidentally hit the engine. That is the police report.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In that case, why was not this refuted in the Press because the Press had made capital of this so small an incident?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN:- Sir, I hope this will be, given due publicity now.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether this matter was brought to the notice of the State Government and whether any enquiry was made in this respect to ascertain what exactly the position was?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has just reported the results of that enquiry.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The matter was referred to the police and what I stated is the result of the police enquiry.

PAYMENT OF T.A. AND D.A. TO THE INVESTIGATING INSPECTORS OF THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTS OFFICES

♦221. DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government during the last five years on the travelling and daily allowances of the Investigating Inspectors who look into the working of the Telephone Revenue Accounts offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): Rs. 23,242 (Rupees twenty three thousand, two hundred and forty two only).

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Could we have the break-up of this figure, Sir?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The break-up is as follows:

In 1953-54, there were no expenses on this account at all.

In 1954-55, it was:

Rs. 640 for the Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Delhi.

Rs. 2,174 for the Office at Delhi. Rs. 88 for the D.M.T., New Delhi. Rs. 1,049 for Madras and Rs. 121 for Calcutta. For 1955-56, it was: Rs. 3,148 for the Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Delhi.

Rs. 1,674 for A.O.T.R., Delhi.

Rs. 460 for A.O.T.R., Lucknow.

Rs. 343 for the D.M.T., New Delhi.

Rs. 1,805 for D.M.T. Madras and so on.

Does the hon. Member want all the figures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

The question hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

15. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that s.s. "Rajula" arrived recently in Madras

from Singapore carrying a large number of persons suffering from influenza;

(b) if so, whether the carried the infection and passed it on to the people in Madras with the result that there has been an outbreak of influenza almost in an epidemic form in that State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the West Bengal Government have declared influenza as a dangerous disease in all municipal areas of West Bengal, including the city of Calcutta; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether such declaration is in any way related to the influenza epidemic raging in Singapore?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. s.s. "Rajula", carrying about 1,600 passengers and 200 crew, arrived in Madras in the early hours of the 16th May 1957. The ship was anchored 3½ miles away from the harbour. 30 medical officers and 70 other staff boarded the ship. At the time of arrival, there were 44 cases of Influenza on board, 4 of which were serious and the remaining were of a mild to moderate severity.

(b) 3 doctors, 7 nurses and 5 members of the Port Health Staff, who were attending on the passengers on s.s. "Rajula", contracted the disease and they were isolated. One officer of the Central Government who went to Madras from Delhi in this connection has also contracted the disease. It is unlikely that these cases were responsible for any widespread dissemination of infection in Madras. The situation is under control.

(c) and (d). Yes. As a precautionary measure, the West Bengal Government have declared influenza as a dangerous disease in the municipal areas of West Bengal 12 NOON" ... including the city of Calcutta.

I should like also to add that another steam ship "State doctors and nurses who attended on these patients of Madras" arrived in Madras harbour on the 28th May 1957. Necessary steps have been taken in connection with that ship also.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: What steps are being taken by the Government to combat the disease and with what success?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, from the day on which we came to know of this we alerted all the State Governments. We sent three of our officers, one each to Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and I am happy that the State Governments concerned, especially the Madras Government, because there have been a number of cases there, are taking all possible steps, and so far as we can see the measures taken till now to keep the epidemic under control have been fairly successful.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Were there such cases in Delhi also?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Happily not yet, Sir, though people suffer from something like influenza sometimes.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know, Sir, whether casualties have occurred and if so to what extent?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: If the hon. Member means by casualties 'deaths' there has not been any reported so far, but people have suffered and recovered.

SHRI K. MADHAVA MENON: How many cases have occurred in Madras city besides these passengers?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, my information is that before the ship arrived in Madras harbour 30 passengers were said to have developed some form of illness during the voyage. Does my hon. friend want

to know the statistics as a whole in Madras city?

SHRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the arrival of that ship "Rajula" how many cases of influenza occurred in Madras city? That is the question.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not the exact figures, Sir, but recently, in the papers yesterday and to-day there is report of some more cases, but there is nothing alarming about it.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether it can be presumed that the spread of influenza in Calcutta and Delhi is due to the infection from Singapore?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: About Delhi of course there is no reason for us to believe that there has been any serious incidence of influenza here, much less from any infection from Singapore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asked about Calcutta also.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Calcutta also has been on the alert and we have no reasons to believe yet that the infection has come from Singapore as such. Of course once it comes into the country it can spread anywhere.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, the effect of this epidemic on Bombay; how many patients have already been admitted and what more accommodation has been arranged for in the hospitals?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I have no ready information about Bombay but I read that in Bombay there were a few cases which came to the hospital. I am not sure about the number.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: What is the difference

between the symptoms of influenza of the old type and this new type?

SHRI D. P. KARMAEKAR: I have (the exact symptoms, Sir, and I should like to satisfy the hon. member about this matter. Now so far as the Singapore influenza is concerned, the incubation period appears to be 12 to 24 hours. The onset is accompanied by a temperature of 101 to 103 degrees with headache as the most marked symptom although patients have also complained of giddiness, nausea and pains in the back and limbs. The pyrexia lasts for about two days and the patient is usually incapacitated for a total of about four days. There are very few complications and as far as is known, there has been no fatal case.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: In to-day's papers it appears that this flu has broken out in an epidemic form in Madras city, that the officers attending Government offices are very few and that the people are panicky. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any precautionary measures have been taken at the instance of the Health Ministry to see that the passengers passing through Madras city are not affected, because we want to pass through Madras?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: With our co-operation the State Government of Madras is taking all possible steps. The only sure step which should be taken in the matter as soon as a patient is detected is to isolate him so that the chances of further infection may be less. There is not that sign of panic, as my hon. friend referred to, and I wish that we do not help in creating such panic though I read in this morning's papers that the attendance, in the offices was less than usual. There is nothing alarming about the epidemic. We have taken all possible care to see that the epidemic does not spread further.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Sir, do people suffering from this type of flu develop pneumonia quickly?

SHRI D. P. KAHMARKAR: Yes, Sir, my hon. friend is right in respect of some types. It is really the developments from influenza that are most dangerous than influenza itself. It is the further complications that are dangerous.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Has the Government taken steps to prepare injections from the virus in one of its research laboratories?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, there has been an attempt in that direction but there has to be a time lag. That effort is not likely to be adequate and therefore the best means of preventing further spread of this thing is to isolate the patients and see to it that they recover and no further infection takes place.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अंदमान के वन-विभाग द्वारा इमारती लकड़ी का विक्रय

*२००. श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अन्दमान के वन-विभाग को १९५४-५५ और १९५५-५६ में इमारती लकड़ी की बिक्री से कितनी रकम प्राप्त हुई ?

[[SALE OF TIMBER BY THE FOREST DEPARTMENT OF ANDAMAN ISLANDS

*200. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM; Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount received from the sale of timber by the Forest Department of Andaman Islands in 1954-55 and 1955-56?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अजित प्रसाद जैन) : वन-विभाग द्वारा इमारती

लकड़ी की बिक्री से वास्तव में प्राप्त हुई रकम, १९५४-५५ में ६५.५३ लाख रुपये और १९५५-५६ में ७८.३८ लाख रुपये था ।

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): The amounts actually received from the sale of timber by the Forest Department were Rs. 65.53 lakhs in 1954-55 and Rs. 78.38 lakhs in 1955-56.]

SERVICE AND ADMISSION RULES FOR NURSES

"201. SHKIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

ta) whether the State Governments consult the Government of India at the time of fixing the pay scales, service rules and admission rules for nurses;

(b) whether these rules vary from State to State; and

(c) what are the minimum qualifications required for admission in the College of Nursing, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Qualifications required for admission to the courses at the College of Nursing, New Delhi

B. Sc. (Honours) in Nursing (for women only) —

1. The Higher Secondary Examination of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, or any examination recognised as equivalent

t English translation.