

RAJYASABHA

Monday, 26th September, 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

B.C.G. VACCINATION IN MYSORE STATE AND PROTECTIVE VALUE OF B.C.G.

*586. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated in Mysore State during the period between October 1952 and June 1955; and

(b) whether any investigation was carried out to assess the protective value of B.C.G. against leprosy and if so, what is the result of the investigation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) 2,156,107 persons were tuberculin tested, out of whom 877,361 persons were B.C.G. vaccinated against T.B., during the period between October 1952 to June 1955, in the Mysore State.

(b) Yes; a statement on the result of the investigation is placed on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

An investigation regarding the protective value of B.C.G. vaccination against leprosy was carried out at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. The studies have confirmed that B.C.G. vaccination converts a negative lepromin reaction into a positive one. They have further shown that a naturally occurring positive lepromin reaction is associated with a considerable degree of protection against the disease; lepromin positive individuals are much less likely to get the disease than the negative reactors. On the assumption

that a B.C.G. induced positive reaction will have the same protective value, B.C.G. vaccination is likely to be of prophylactic value in leprosy. This is, however, not yet conclusively proved, and convincing evidence can be obtained only by long term field studies, wherein comparable groups of vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons are followed up for 5 to 10 years and the incidence of leprosy in those two groups is studied.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether it is not a fact that if you take the percentage of the persons tested and B.C.G. vaccinated, Mysore stands first in India?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I have not got the list of the other States. It may be true.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that they have tested also the military personnel on whom the security of the country depends and found that there is no harm done on them?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: The information is correct.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: It is stated in the statement that an investigation regarding the protective value of B.C.G. vaccination against leprosy was carried out at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. May I know whether other countries have gone into this matter and if so, with what result?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I am not aware of the results in other countries but as far as our country goes, we are carrying on this experiment in Calcutta, as the hon. Member knows from the statement, and we have to wait for five to ten years to know the particular results.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the target till the end of this year, 1955, for B.C.G. tests and vaccinations?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I would require notice for that.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is there any ill effect recorded of the vaccinations in Mysore?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: We have not heard of any.

*587. [For answer, vide col. 4527 infra.]

*588. [For answer, vide col. 4530 infra.]

*589. [For answer, vide col. 4534 infra.]

B.O.A.C. TEAM TO EXAMINE PALAM AIRPORT

*590. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a thirty member team of the British Overseas Airways Corporation air crew landed in Delhi in April 1955, to examine the operational characteristics of the Palam Airport; and

(b) whether it is the practice to allow the inspection of our airports by foreign air companies.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) Prior to the inauguration of their Constellation service from London to Tokyo, B.O.A.C. sent a crew team of 31 members flying on the route, for the purpose of what is called "route proving and familiarisation". In the course of this flight, the team landed at Palam Airport on the 6th April 1955 and after a study of the facilities available at the Airport, etc., in the course of about an hour and a half, they departed the same day.

(b) Yes, such familiarisation visits are the normal practice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know how many captains and other officers were there in the crew of the B.O.A.C.?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I will not be able to give the details of the ranks

of the various members of the crew, but in all there were 31.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Do they want to run their Constellation and so they came here?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is right. The B.O.A.C. propose to run a Constellation Air Service to Tokyo.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: If it is so and we are also having our services to Tokyo, will they not be competing with our services?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We cannot help that. As a matter of fact, fair competition in the case of international air services is permissible.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Already there is a Constellation Service between Bombay and London and also between Far East and Delhi and Calcutta. Are they also interested in having Constellation services on the same route?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The frequency and capacity of each International Airline is governed by International Air Agreements and they are mutually agreed upon.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister, whether in view of the fact that Palam Airport is a military aerodrome also, there is any proposal in hand to separate the civil from the military airport?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It has not yet been decided as to whether it would be exclusively a military or civil airport. At present it is being used as a civil air-port and of course it is being used as an I.A.F. airport also.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is it in the interests of security that military airports are allowed to be inspected by foreign crew?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a normal civil commercial air service. There is no question of military there.