

so many things—customs, etc.—involved. There are so many other items also. I want to know what they have done at the governmental level. Could they throw some light on this matter?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Of course, the route will be opened only after the arrangements regarding customs, police, etc., have been completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHOPRA COMMITTEE ON THE INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

*421. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) which of the recommendations contained in the report of the Chopra Committee on the indigenous systems of medicine have been accepted by Government and what steps have been taken to implement those recommendations; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take towards the implementation of those recommendations during this year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

One of the most important recommendations of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine, which is also known as the Chopra Committee, that research in the Indigenous Systems of Medicine should be promoted on as broad a basis as possible, has been accepted by Government. In pursuance of this decision Government have established a Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine at Jamnagar. A sum of Rs. 37.5 lakhs has also been allocated under the first Five-Year Plan, to be spent mainly on researches in indigenous systems of medicine, and the scheme prepared by the Central Government in this regard has been circulated

to State Governments whose replies are awaited. Another important recommendation of the Chopra Committee, which has been accepted by Government in principle, is compulsory registration of all practitioners in medicine and, for that purpose, Government have decided that an all-India legislation should be enacted for the registration of people who have been practising Ayurvedic and Unani and other systems of medicine for a specified number of years, and for prohibiting the practice of medicine by unregistered persons thereafter. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

2. A provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made in the budget of 1954-55 to be paid to the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine at Jamnagar. The Central scheme for encouraging researches in indigenous systems of medicine is also expected to be started during the current financial year.

3. A draft all-India legislation for compulsory registration of practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and prohibition of practice by unregistered persons will be placed before the Executive Committee of the Central Health Council, as recommended by that Council at their Second Meeting held at Rajkot in February, 1954.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know what progress has been made by this Central Institute of Research about which mention has been made in the statement?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: This Central Institute of Research is making quite good progress. Very good staff has been appointed and they are already working at Jamnagar. I would ask the hon. Member, if he is interested, to go and visit it some time and see for himself what is being done there.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: That is a step taken by the Government, but I want to know what progress it has

already made. What have they done there apart from standardising certain medicines? They must throw some light on that. I have been going and I will go there again.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: In the matter of research, it is extremely difficult to report progress within a year. They have begun to work and they have begun it on scientific lines and good staff has been recruited; that, I think, is quite good progress to report in one year.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if the Government of India have come to any decision regarding the indigenous systems of medicine? I want to know whether they have themselves any faith in this system of medicine or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Governments have no souls and so are not capable of faith or lack of faith.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What I want to know is whether they are prepared to proceed. There is a general complaint already, the people have all the time been complaining against the Government that Government appears to be very cold and calculating in the matter of the Ayurvedic system of medicine and I wish to know whether Government is aware that in this country about 90 per cent. of the people have faith in this system of medicine?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Sir, the Cabinet decision has been that modern scientific medicine must be the basis of the development of the national health services in the country, but that facilities for research on scientific lines in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine should be promoted. And according to that decision, we are working. I would like, Sir, to contradict the remark that the hon. Member has made, that 90 per cent. of the people of this country want the Ayurvedic system of medicine. The facts absolutely point to the contrary and, the other day, in the Central Council of Health, the

Ministers of several States said that while they give Ayurvedic dispensaries to the masses, the latter always demand the modern doctor.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: What proportion does the allotment for indigenous systems of medicine bear to that for the Western system of medicine, in the year 1954-55?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Sir, in this matter, the States are autonomous and naturally we have to refer to them for the information.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I be permitted to ask whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that in the name of indigenous medicines, so much quackery is going on and also that under the so-called indigenous system many patients recover not due to the treatment but in spite of the treatment?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I am aware of the existence of quackery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Major-General Sokhey.

MAJ.-GEN. S. S. SOKHEY: I wanted to ask the hon. Minister whether there is such a thing as "western" medicine?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are raising a fundamental question. We cannot allow that.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, if anybody having Ayurvedic qualifications and faith in Ayurveda is associated in taking decisions in this matter in Government?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Sir, there is a committee composed mainly of Ayurvedic people who are conducting the institute at Jamnagar.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: No, what I mean is: in taking decisions at the governmental level and in implementing them, is there anybody having faith in this system associated with the Government? If so, who are these persons?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: In all schemes of the Council in regard to the Ayurvedic system, Vaidas are associated.

*422. [The questioner (Shri Prasadarao) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3464 infra.]

*423. [For answer, vide col. 3461 infra.]

FORMATION OF CENTRAL AND STATE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

*424. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have invited the Governments of various States to express their opinion on the formation of Agricultural Advisory Committees in the States and at the Centre?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): Yes.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: On what exactly will these Advisory Committees tender advice?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are yet to advise. They are yet to be constituted.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: But that is not my question. On what specific points are the Advisory Committees being set up to tender advice?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There was a Resolution at the Conference of the Agricultural Ministers of the States where they decided that it would be advisable to have these Advisory Committees. But these have yet to be constituted and their functions determined.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What exactly is the subject on which the committees' advice is to be called? If they are asked to give their opinion how can they do it unless they know what is required?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I am unable to follow the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are setting up an agricultural advisory committee you expect them to advise you on certain specific matters. What are those matters? That is the question.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Matters concerning their own interests in agriculture. These things are obvious, but they have yet to be determined finally. It is obvious that they will be in a position and would be interested to say about the price policies of Government, the provision of any facilities for financing and such other difficulties as the farmers experience from day to day. It should have been a commonsense matter.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know the type of people that are proposed to be taken on such advisory committees and may I also know whether any representative of the peasant organisations will be taken in?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, the whole matter is yet to be finalised. It has been referred to the State Governments and we have not had complete replies yet.

SHRI B. GUPTA: There must be something in contemplation with regard to this matter. Would the hon. Minister please enlighten us as to the type of people he is contemplating to take on such bodies?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, the hon. Member is habituated to indulging in contemplation and imaginary things. I am not accustomed to resorting to such things. (Laughter.)

SHRI B. GUPTA: I am not indulging in contemplation or imaginary things. He has said that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether the representatives of farmers also will be there?