

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I don't think anything is left so far.

### Adulteration of Food

\*735. **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Khesari Dhal, a poisonous food stuff is used as an adulterant;

(b) whether Government are also aware that such use leads to incurable paralysis of the limbs;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestions in a leading article in the 'Hindu' of September 1, 1957; and

(d) whether steps will be taken to prohibit both the cultivation and the sale of this noxious stuff?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes.

(b) It has not been clinically established that a paralytic condition, affecting the limbs occur in people who consume Khesari Dhal as a part of their daily dietary. Clinical and held investigations are however in progress

(c) Yes

(d) It is proposed to prohibit the cultivation of Khesari Dhal by propaganda and other suitable methods, if possible, and by legislation, if necessary.

The question of prohibiting the sale of Khesari Dhal in certain States under the P. F. A. Act 1954, is already under examination.

**Shri Narasimhan:** What are the States in which this poisonous food is produced?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Not poisonous but undesirable. My esteemed colleague from Bihar says that it is undesirable. But we, both the Food and Agriculture

Ministry and the Health Ministry, have come to the conclusion that it is something that should be discouraged and, later on, prohibited.

The Madras Government have asked for its prohibition and they have passed orders prohibiting the adulteration of other foodstuffs with Khesari Dhal. In other States, at our request, circulars have been issued to bring home to those people the harmful effects resulting from the use of Khesari Dhal.

**Shri Narasimhan:** I would like to know where these undesirable food articles are being grown and widely used?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think in Bihar, Vindhya Pradesh and Eastern U. P.

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:** Is it not a fact that the Madras Government prohibited the sale of this dhal on account of serious food poison and paralysis caused by it?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, the Madras Government had prohibited it. But later on the rules which had enabled them to prohibit the distribution of the dhal earlier were revised, and under the revised rules, that is the Food Adulteration Rules of 1955, no such prohibition could be made. That was their difficulty.

**Shri Narasimhan:** Who are the scientific authorities who are enquiring into the matter as to the full extent of the harm?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Various bodies are concerned with it. We considered it in the Health Ministry and we held the view in our Ministry that it was undesirable to encourage the production of this dhal; but the Central Committee for Food Standards appear to think that Khesari dhal is not likely to be injurious to health if consumed in small quantities.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Has the Health Ministry any scheme under its experts for examining the qualities of this

dhal and for analysing its effects on the general health of the people?

**Shri Karmarkar:** As I said in my answer, it is still under our examination. But the examination that we have been able to make in the Health Ministry shows that it is necessary to discourage the production of this dhal. I should also inform the House that my esteemed colleague, the Minister for Food and Agriculture, has said that in the long run there appears to be little doubt that the cultivation of Khesari dhal should be stopped by propaganda and other measures if possible, and by legislation if necessary. The States are being advised in the matter, and as regards immediate action he said that we should carry on propaganda against it.

**Shri Easwara Iyer:** May I know whether the poisonous element in the dhal has been isolated by any experiment?

**Shri Karmarkar:** These experiments have been carried on, I think, on rats, and as it happened. (*Interruption*) We do not attempt experiments and undesirable things on human beings. There are methods for researches. As it happened, no deleterious effect was produced on the animals which were fed on this. But the general opinion that we have been able to arrive at—and pending further expert opinion we must go by the opinion that we hold—is that it is undesirable to produce and distribute this dhal.

**Mr. Speaker:** His question was whether any experiment or research is being carried on to isolate the poisonous element or portion in such dhal?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The normal method is not to isolate the poisonous substance. It is not such an easy matter. The method is to try it on some animals to see the effect likely to be created on human beings. That is the accepted way of research in respect of many of these things. The idea is not to go on analysing and

finding out which is the poisonous stuff.

### Study of Fisheries Activities in Japan

\*737. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Government had sent a team of officers to study fisheries in Japan;

(b) whether the team has submitted any report; and

(c) the total cost incurred on the team?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes.

(b) Not yet.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred by the Govt. of India on the visit of this team to Japan, as all expenses on international travel and allowances in Japan were met by the Government of Japan under the Colombo Plan. The internal cost on travel of officers who were included in the team from place of duty to port of embarkation was borne by the respective State Governments.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether there was any proposal to afford special facilities to Japanese investors in India in collaboration with Indian interests and, if so, what are the special terms guaranteed to them?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Before the officers left we gave them instructions to examine the case of Japanese collaboration, that is of Japanese fishing industrialists collaborating with Indian industries on our coasts.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In view of the fact that Japanese vessels are taking a good deal of the fish called *duma fish* from the Indian Ocean and it fetches a very good price in the American market, may I know whether Government directed our team to study the possibilities of finding out