

Cancer

*2007. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cobalt therapy units received from the Government of Canada;

(b) the amount spent on these units;

(c) where these units have been established; and

(d) the advantages of these units over conventional X-ray therapy in treating the cancer patients?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No cobalt therapy unit has yet been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The advantages of these units over conventional X-ray therapy machines are that they can be used almost continuously for 24 hours whereas X-ray machines can only be used intermittently as otherwise the tube is likely to be overheated and may fuse.

I should like to add further that as a result of discussions in January, 1957, a formal request for the supply of 5 cobalt therapy units under the Colombo Plan was sent to the Colombo Plan authorities in Canada. I understand that as part of the capital aid programme during 1958-59, an allotment of \$120,000 has been made, which would be equal to 3 units.

Shri Supakar: When this new therapy is introduced, where will it be introduced?

Shri Karmarkar: I think in Madras, one cobalt unit is there.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: In view of the widespread incidence of cancer in rural areas, do Government propose to have mobile cobalt therapy units?

Shri Karmarkar: A mobile unit and cobalt therapy unit together are two absolutely impossible things.

Rajasthan Canal

*2008. Shri Damani: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workmen of Rajasthan Canal are facing water problem; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathji): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Shri Damani: May I know whether Government expected such a kind of water scarcity; and, if so, what previous arrangements were made to overcome this difficulty?

Shri Hathji: The Government did expect this difficulty because the area through which the canal is passing is desert area. A meeting was convened on the 7th and 8th April, of the two Chief Engineers from Rajasthan and Punjab and the seriousness of the problem of water supply during construction was considered. It was agreed that the problem needs to be solved satisfactorily before any work could be started. The Chief Engineers have worked out the requirements also at so many cusecs per mile, wherefrom this water could be made available and the sources. They are required to lay down a complete scheme for water supply in this area.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know at how many places work has been started and what is the number of labour employed?

Shri Hathji: As I said, that information is being collected. But, so far as my information goes, it is only the survey and alignment. The information about the actual number of labour employed is not in my possession now.

Casualty in the Irwin Hospital

*2009. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to