

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When a proposal is made for another route to be opened that aspect has to be examined. I am not at all sure that it will be opened, the second one, nor can I say that it will not be. The matter is under examination, including the aspects that the hon. Member has mentioned.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether it is a fact that smuggling is on the increase on the Goa border?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Achar: May I know whether the Government is aware that travellers are put to much inconvenience and delay on account of the small number of customs officials? Sometimes they are detained from six to eight hours. Will Government do something about it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have received such complaints, both about delays and smuggling. We are trying to tighten up the regulations and avoid delays.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

*620. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1230 on the 19th December, 1958 and state:

(a) the reasons for not extending the medical benefits to workers' families under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme in Bombay and Madras cities; and

(b) whether any firm date has been fixed for this extension?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Due to shortage of personnel and accommodation, the State Governments could not complete necessary arrangements for extending medical care to workers' families in Bombay and Madras.

(b) No.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Was it not stated at one of the meetings by the Director General of the Corporation that the additional expenditure consequent upon the expansion could be met from the Corporation's resources themselves? If so, why is there delay?

Shri Abid Ali: The question of expenses does not arise. The difficulties are what I have just now mentioned.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: For the hospital that was to be constructed at Madras, only land has been acquired. Am I to understand that this will not be extended to the families of the insured till the hospital, which is to be constructed, is constructed? It will take two years more.

Shri Abid Ali: First of all we have to cover the families for general treatment. The question of hospitalisation will arise afterwards. At present even all the insured persons have not got hospitalisation arrangements. Hospital beds have been reserved and annexes have been acquired by the Corporation for their treatment in hospitals.

Shri Tangamani: By what time is the hospital, which is proposed to be constructed in Madras City by the Corporation, likely to be completed?

Shri Abid Ali: For hospitalisation in Madras, it is proposed to have one hospital of 175 beds. 84 bedded annexe will be in Coimbatore. In other places also arrangements will be made. But at present land acquisition and all that is being attended to.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the time within which the hospital will be opened in Madras.

Shri Abid Ali: To say that at this stage will be very difficult. So many things have to be completed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know the progress made towards the establishment of E.S.I. hospitals in

Bombay and other places. What progress has been made in that regard?

Shri Abid Ali: The hospital at Bombay is under construction. It should be completed by next year. What is the other place that the hon. Member wants to know?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Other places, like Kanpur.

Shri Abid Ali: For that he may give separate notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The foundation stone was to be laid in February . . .

Mr. Speaker: He wants notice.

Shri Palaniandy: May I know whether the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is also extended to the small industries in Madras State? How far is it extended?

Shri Abid Ali: This scheme is extended to places where the required number of persons are employed and not to industries. Whatever industries are situated in that particular zone are covered.

Shri Kunhan: May I know whether this scheme has been extended to the families of the insured employees in Kerala State? If not, why not?

Shri Abid Ali: In Kerala the scheme has been extended to Alleppey, Quilon, Trichur, Alwaye, Ernakulam, Alagappanagar, Trivandrum, Kozhikode and two or three other places.

Shri Kunhan: Whether it has been extended to families . . .

Mr. Speaker: Shri Thirumala Rao.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the very deplorable condition in certain of these hospitals in Bombay run under this scheme and entrusted to private medical practitioners?

Shri Abid Ali: Some complaints were received. They were attended to.

Shri Nanjappa: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that for want of medical personnel a number of centres were not opened. How many centres were not opened for want of medical personnel?

Shri Abid Ali: No, I submitted that families have not been covered.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What are the cities in which this concession has been extended to the families?

Shri Abid Ali: A statement was placed on the Table of the House and if again the hon. Member wants it, he can give notice. I will place it before the House. It is a long list.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In part (b) of the question I asked whether any firm date has been fixed. In the last meeting of the Corporation the hon. Minister requested the State Governments to help him in drawing a time schedule for the various phases. Even as a result of his sweet persuasion nothing has progressed.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): Such a pessimistic view is not warranted. I have been in personal touch with the States. Schedules have been communicated to them, that is, the schedule of dates on which several steps will be taken. I believe considerable progress is being made.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: A very important reason for the inadequate health conditions in E.S.I. is said to be the dual control of State Governments and the Central Government. What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to rectify this?

Shri Nanda: A legislation on the subject has laid down certain arrangements. It may be that some things have to be done in the States and we can only persuade. We cannot take any other action. But I believe that in course of time things have improved.