

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): We have brought it to the notice of the State Governments that small cultivators and landless persons should be given preference in the allotment of such land as far as possible.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am reserving Shri Hem Barua and Shri Tangamani for some other questions. Now next question.

Pasteur Institute, Coonoor

*1288. **Shri Nanjappan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to Pasteur Institute, Coonoor for research work in live polio virus vaccination;

(b) the progress so far made;

(c) what are the other research programmes undertaken by the Institute with Government aids; and

(d) what are the useful achievements so far obtained?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). No specific grant has been paid by the Central Government to the Pasteur Institute for research work in live polio virus vaccine.

(c) The following research programmes have been undertaken by the Institute with financial assistance from the Government of India:

- (i) Studies on the value of anti-rabies serum and its production on a Pilot scale;
- (ii) Studies on rabies;
- (iii) Studies on influenza;
- (iv) Studies on respiratory and investinal viruses;
- (v) Studies on vaccinia and small-pox;
- (vi) Studies on syphilis; and
- (vii) Studies on cholera.

(d) A summary of the progress of work carried out by the Institute on the enquiries sponsored by the Government of India is given in the Scientific Report of the Institute for the year 1960, a copy of which has been placed in the Parliament Library.

Shri Nanjappan: May I know the services rendered by the Pasteur Institute in the recent outbreak of polio in Vijayawada and the other outbreak at Nagpur, sometime back?

Shri Karmarkar: I think they deputed expert personnel to find out the nature of the disease and things like that.

Mr. Speaker: There have been some questions about polio in some of districts of Andhra Pradesh— Krishna and Circar districts.

Shri Karmarkar: It has subsided now.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Apart from Rs. 9 lakhs granted two years ago as capital grant and about Rs. 1.83 lakhs as recurring grant to the Pasteur Institute the Institute came forward with some application for some research programmes. May I know at what stage this matter stands?

Shri Karmarkar: The Government of India's grant is in connection with the building work, fixture etc. in the laboratories at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,71,452. These grants have been given in 1959-60 and 1960-61 for non-recurring purposes, for the construction of building, etc. In 1959-60 it was Rs. 2.50 lakhs. For 1960-61, the amount is Rs. 5 lakhs. The recurring expenditure for the programme—which I mentioned just now—is as follows: for 1959-60, Rs. 1,33,000 and for 1960-61, Rs. 83,543.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know whether this disease, which was very widespread in some districts in Andhra Pradesh, has since subsided?

Mr. Speaker: He said it has subsided.

Shri Rami Reddy: How many deaths have occurred in connection with this disease and what is the assistance that the Centre has given to prevent this disease?

Shri Karmarkar: It was a matter for anxiety in that area. We did receive about three weeks or one month back reports about the serious incidence of polio. This is the season for polio. This year the incidence of this disease has been greater. We sent from here a senior officer and also an officer from the ICMR was sent there. After the incidence of this disease, there is nothing that can be done as such, except careful nourishment and protection. There is no specific treatment. The question is one of—it is much more—preventing the spread of the disease in the future. The Andhra Pradesh Government asked for our aid in respect of getting some vaccine from the other countries. We have given them all the assurance, and we shall support them in any request in that direction that might come from them. In the meantime, happily for us, the disease has subsided, but we have to be very careful about it.

Shri Rami Reddy: What is the number of deaths that occurred?

Shri Karmarkar: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: He talked of iron lungs and so on; in America, they are flying it from one place to the other.

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Venkatasubbalah: May I know, as a preventive measure, whether the Central Government propose to supply this vaccine to the different general hospitals in the Andhra Pradesh State?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. The Andhra State Government is seized of the matter. As I said a moment ago, we shall give them all the aid and assistance that they want from us.

Shri Nanjappan: May I know the number of States which depend upon this Institute for anti-rabies vaccine

and, if so, whether their requirements are fully met?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice, Sir.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed several questions. Next question.

Alarm Chains on North Eastern Railway

*1289. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarm chains on North Eastern Railway have been discontinued from 1st February, 1961;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether this is likely to put the passengers to great inconvenience?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes Sir. On some trains. A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 62].

(b) and (c). The blanking off was found necessary in view of persistent misuse of the apparatus and resultant adverse effects, including serious dislocation to trains services and consequent inconvenience to passengers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement, it appears that from 1st February, 1961, the alarm chain apparatus has been blanked off in nearly 36 or 37 trains of the North Eastern Railway. May I know whether, after the tragic death of Mr. Rama Rao, the Railway Administration will revise this decision and will continue to retain the use of alarm chains in this region?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have no idea of revising our views. I should like to place some facts before the House regarding this matter. Of the 361 trains in the North Eastern Railway, 53 have been blanked off in respect of the alarm chain. It is about 14 per cent. Since the 1st