

**Shri Balakrishnan:** May I know whether the passengers who have lost their property in the robbery are entitled to any compensation from the Railway Board?

**Mr. Speaker:** First of all, let the robbers be detected. Then we can come to compensation.

#### Gastro Enteritis in Delhi

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- \*573. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Naval Prabhakar:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shri Chuni Lal:**

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gastro Enteritis spread in an epidemic form in Delhi during this summer;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to check the same; and

(c) the number of deaths due to this disease during the last six months?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 42].

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know the specific measures that are being taken in order to control the pollution of water, not only the water that is supplied through the water supply agencies but other kinds of water that are drunk by the people in Delhi?

**Shri Karmarkar:** So far as the main source of pollution, Najafgarh nulla, is concerned, as the House is already aware, all steps are being taken to divert its flow and purify the canal bank where it gets into the river. With regard to the other sources of water pollution, I cannot exactly follow what the hon. Member means. If he has got any suggestion, he can give it to us.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** People take water from hand-pumps and other sources. Are Government keeping a watch over the hand-pumps also so that pure drinking water is ensured?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Normally, wherever pure water is available, the municipal authorities discourage the working of hand-pumps, except where it is absolutely inevitable. In cases where water is taken from the hand-pumps, precaution is taken to examine the water and warn the public regarding that.

**श्री म० ल० द्विवेदी :** इस बयान में बताया गया है—

“Intensive checking for the sale of unwholesome articles of food and drink through the food hygiene enforcement squad and sanitary inspectors is made.”

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में सैनिटरी इंस्पेक्टर और हेल्थ विभाग के दूसरे लोगों की क्या राय है कि यहाँ पर बीमारी के जन्म पाये जाते हैं, क्योंकि अभी आज के अखबार से मालूम हुआ है कि ओखला के पानी से बीमारी पैदा हो सकती है।

**श्री कर्मकर :** जी हाँ, ओखला में जो पानी है, वह अपवित्र है। उसको आजकल हार्डक्लोरीनाइजेशन से प्योरिफाई करते हैं। वहाँ के पानी के बारे में अभी सन्तोषजनक व्यवस्था नहीं है, जो कि आम तौर पर दिल्ली के पानी के बारे में है। उस को सुधारने के बारे में भी प्रयत्न चल रहे हैं। जो पानी नदी में से आता है, वह शुद्ध ही होता है—जब ज्यादा क्लोरीनाइजेशन करते हैं, तो वह शुद्ध हो जाता है।

**Shri Tangamani:** From the statement I find that there were 21 deaths during the period January to June. I would like to know how many cases of gastro-enteritis were brought to the notice of the Government during the six month period. What was the position in July 1961? I ask this be-

cause I find that during last year it developed into an epidemic form only during the monsoon season, particularly in July, August and September.

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is normally during this period that these diseases develop in an epidemic form. The food-borne and water-borne diseases are more during the rainy season. Therefore, during the rainy season we have to take extra precautionary measures. I could not exactly hear what he said about last year.

**Shri Tangamani:** How many cases were reported during the first six months? The statement only gives the figure of deaths.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am very sorry, that information has not been given to us by the Corporation. I shall get it at the earliest possible time and lay it on the Table of the House.

**Shri Kalika Singh:** May I know the method by which the hon. Minister has been able to distinguish between gastro-enteritis and cholera?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is not a doctor.

**Shri Karmarkar:** So far as I have been able to understand, gastro-enteritis is a Latin word or combination. It means something wrong with the stomach and gastric canal. When the stools are examined and it is found that it is infested with cholera germs it is diagnosed as cholera. Therefore, all the troubles connected with the gastric canal are not necessarily cholera.

**Shri Kalika Singh:** May I know whether the gastro-enteritis cases are sent to the examiner to find out whether it is a case of cholera or gastro-enteritis?

**Shri Karmarkar:** In many cases it is done. I cannot vouchsafe that it is done in all cases. Under the Infectious Diseases Act, any person who is suffering from gastro-enteritis has to be reported. When he goes to the hospital, generally he is examined to find out

whether he is suffering from cholera or gastro-enteritis, but I cannot vouchsafe that it is done in all cases.

**Shri Nanjappan:** The hon. Minister has stated that this disease is prevalent only during the rainy season. But, according to this report, it is prevalent in summer also. So, may I know whether the causes have been found out for it being seasonal in Delhi?

**Shri Karmarkar:** My answer was not as precise as it ought to have been. Where conditions exist for the prevalence of gastro-enteritis, it can come at any time. If a person is indiscreet in eating or eats unwholesome food, it can occur in any part of the world any month or any day.

#### Fire in Ajmer Central Office

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\*575. { Pandit D. N. Tiwari:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cause of the outbreak of fire in the Ajmer Central Office of the Western Railway on the 3rd May, 1961 has been ascertained by enquiry;

(b) the extent of damage caused; and

(c) whether any sabotage is suspected?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). Yes Sir. It has been assessed that damage to the tune of Rs. 19,462-89nP has been caused on account of this fire.

(c) No Sir.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** May I know whether the causes for the fire have been found out? How did it occur?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Yes, Sir; there was a committee appointed consisting of five persons. The majority report is that the fire was caused by a lighted cigarette thrown carelessly by