

contracted only by long association. It happens in the case of children in a family. Today the method of segregating patients of leprosy is outmoded. Now if a person is suffering from leprosy, each man, woman and child of that family is taken to the centre and examined to find out whether they have contracted it. The old idea of segregation is being fast given up.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, there is no legislation.

Shri Karmarkar: Therefore, both on merits as also on the ground of impracticability, legislation on travel by patients from one place to another is not under consideration. The particular question under consideration is as to what is to be done for the leprosy patients who beg. That is considered as an important problem for the time being. For the control of leprosy in general, we propose to cover the whole country with those centres and bring the treatment to every man's door.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether a survey has been undertaken recently in which it has been ascertained that leprosy cases are on the verge of increase and it has increased in certain places, especially in mining areas? I want to know the steps that are being taken to check this.

Shri Karmarkar: I should have to wait for more details about the mining areas, but there is no ground for believing that the incidence of leprosy is increasing. On the other hand, wherever we go, we have been told by the patients that better treatment is being given and their scars are improving. In fact, a survey was undertaken at Wardha by Dr. Wardekar and his survey shows that leprosy is decreasing in that area. Therefore, the number of leprosy cases are decreasing.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that the survey that he is referring to was done after an intensive home treatment in that par-

ticular area. Surely, after an intensive home treatment tracing and treating every case of leprosy, there will be decrease in the incidence of leprosy in a particular area. But from that how can the hon. Minister draw general conclusions for the whole country? Secondly, is he suggesting that there is nothing to be done for the beggars suffering from leprosy and Government propose to leave the problem alone for the time being?

Shri Karmarkar: To the first of half of the question my reply is to repeat what I said earlier, that the material at our disposal does not lead us to the conclusion that leprosy is increasing in its incidence. With regard to the second question, we attach the greatest importance to it and it is engaging the active attention of the Government. Regarding the question how to deal with beggars suffering from leprosy, in Bombay they arrested the leprosy patients who are begging, isolated them and gave them treatment. That resulted in some good. In Delhi, for instance, all the beggars are being arrested, and that will include the beggars suffering from leprosy also.

Shri Kunhan: May I know whether the Indian Council of Medical Research have any scheme for eradicating leprosy and, if so, what those schemes are?

Shri Karmarkar: The Government of India have a scheme to control leprosy. The Council has schemes only for researches.

Allowance to Retired Scientists to Continue Research Work

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*745. { **Shri Damani:**
Shri L. Achaw Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to help retired scientists to continue research work by giving them annual allowances;

(b) if so, the reaction by the retired scientists thereon; and

(c) whether any headway has been made in this direction?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme has been received favourably.

(c) The scheme has been implemented with effect from December, 1960. Four retired scientists have been given assistance under this scheme so far.

Shri Damani: May I know whether it is contemplated to put up the retirement age up for such personnel so as to utilize their knowledge and experience which become ripe and mature at the retirement age?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is a separate question. We are dealing with people who have actually retired, irrespective of the age at which they retire.

Shri Tyagi: What type of help is proposed to be given to these shown scientists? Will it also be restricted only to those who have good results during their tenure of office?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. The scientists would be chosen very carefully. There will be an advisory body of five big scientists of the country who will scrutinise not only what they have done in the past but also how far they will be suitable for undertaking research on a particular subject that will be assigned to them. The emoluments are Rs. 6,000 per year. It will be a sort of an allowance. Rs. 4,000 are provided for the arrangements.

Shri Tyagi: I was keen to know whether it will be restricted only to those who have done some good research during their tenure of office and not to those who go on doing research without giving any good results. It is no use helping such people.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would not be confined merely to those who have

given good results. The capability may be irrespective of any definite results. If there is a promise of results, that is equally good.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Are the concessions made to those scientists who have retired on their application or are they made *suo motu* by the Government hoping that such concessions given to them will be useful for the purpose they are given?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Actually, everybody would be expected to apply, but there may be a proud scientist who would refuse to apply, in which case we might not mind approaching him to take up the work.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Do Government realise that it is not enough to give an allowance because for conducting research there are other facilities which are more essential? May I know what is being done in respect of providing other facilities rather than chance for carrying out research, for example, laboratory assistance and all that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is ample provision which is fairly satisfactory in the provision of Rs. 4,000. They can choose an institution where they would like to work. It might be a laboratory; it might be certain University laboratory elsewhere, or it might be some agronomic or other research which could be performed on their own farms or in suitable places. I can assure my hon. friend that we are not so perfunctory as his question suggests in working out this scheme as not to include this aspect to which he has drawn our attention.

Shri Jamal Khawaja: My question is related to the question asked by hon. Member, Shri Tyagi. I want to know how Government expect a scientist who has not done any productive work till the age of his retirement to have promise later on. It raises an objective question. What would be the objective procedure for making this decision?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In replying to Shri Tyagi I was taking an extreme case because we have several scientists who are sometimes doing exclusively administrative work and therefore probably they have had no chance of doing research work in a laboratory continuously. But even so they have contributed to the advancement of knowledge. So in a fitting case it might be extended to these people also.

Shri Tyagi: Will the hon. Minister oblige this House by giving us a gist of the researches done by them? There is so much of publicity but we do not actually know what good researches have been made by this institution in agriculture.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is entirely a new scheme which has come into operation since December, 1960. It would be open for the House to know about it from time to time. If necessary, I shall read out the names. I think, probably the names will convince the House that they have been properly selected. The names are:

Dr. R. P. Talati, Retired Compost and Sewage Development Officer, Government of India, for investigations on standards of effluents suitable for loamy and silty soils and improvements in quality of compost manures.

Dr. N. Narayana, Retired Agricultural Chemist, Bombay Government, Poona, for investigations of nutrition problems in sheep and study of wool with regard to its physical and chemical properties.

Dr. H. S. Pruthi, Retired Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India, for taxonomic and Biological studies on Indian Jassidae.

Dr. Labh Singh, Retired Director of Agriculture, Punjab, for evolution of new varieties of

wheat, cotton, methods of cultivation etc.

So, they have been very carefully selected.

Mr. Speaker: The question in part (a) is about retired scientists to continue researches. That implies that they must have made researches during their tenure of office and not those who did not do anything but were merely in charge of administration. That does not arise out of this question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For instance, Shri Pruthi was for a long time in the administration, but he is a very competent scientist who has done research previously and has produced a lot of useful literature on research problems and so on.

Shri Tyagi: Is he the same Dr. Pruthi who has been touring the world for the last ten years?

Dr. M. S. Aney: Is it done by a committee of experts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. As I said, there is a committee consisting of the Vice-President of the ICAR, the Agricultural Commissioner, the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, the Statistical Adviser, ICAR and five scientists of repute in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and allied sciences to be appointed by the President of the Council. This body is composed purely of scientists.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know whether under this scheme the retired scientists would be allowed new research projects or whether this assistance would be given to continue their previous research projects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Evidently, the research that we assign to them must be related to the kind of work they have done. So, it might necessarily be a prolongation of the research that they have done. It will certainly be intimately connected with the kind of research they have put in.