

**Legislation for Leprosy Control**

\*91. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 744, on the 21st August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Committee set up by Government to examine the various aspects connected with the legislation for the control of leprosy has since completed its work and submitted any proposals;

(b) if so, what are the details; and

(c) whether the report of the Committee has been circulated to State Governments for opinion?

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

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

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** In the August Session, the hon. Minister said:

"I think this Committee will submit its final report in about a month's time and we may be able to consider it at the next meeting of the Central Council of Health".

May I know what are the reasons why the Committee has not submitted its report?

**Shri Karmarkar:** That was my original hope. But the Committee met later and thought it was necessary for them to refer to some State Government, that Madras, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh may be requested to examine this matter in the light of the existing legal provisions available in those States. Now, there has been some delay in receiving their reports. Only West Bengal have sent up their report. The Committee are awaiting reports from the other States.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Under the leprosy control scheme, there were some recommendations made. May I know whether these recommendations are being followed, and whether they will be changed according, to the recommendations of the Committee?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This Committee went into the question of the necessity of legislation in respect of beggars suffering from leprosy. As regards the leprosy control scheme, it is going on quite well. About 139 subsidiary centres are working. We hope to have another 100 during the Third Five Year Plan. I am happy to tell the House that the scheme is working quite well.

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** आपको उत्तर दिये अब तक सात महीने हो गये । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आने में कितने महीने और लगेंगे ?

**श्री करमरकर :** हम कमेटी को कहने की कोशिश करेंगे कि सूचना जल्द भेज दें । वह भी परेशान हैं । उन्होंने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को मामला रेफर किया था । उनसे कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आयी है । शायद इलेक्शन वगैरह की वजह से यह देरी हो गयी हो । हम कोशिश करेंगे कि रिपोर्ट जल्द भेजी जाये ।

**श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि द्वितीय योजना की समाप्ति तक कुष्ठ के रोगियों का अनुपात पहले से घटा है, यदि हां, तो कितना ?

**श्री करमरकर :** बिल्कुल ठीक संख्या तो नहीं दी जा सकती लेकिन ऐसा अनुमान है कि कोई २५ लाख कुष्ठ के रोगी देश में हैं । इनमें से चार में एक इनफेक्टेड पेशेंट है । यह योजना बहुत विचार करके बनायी गयी है ताकि इस दिशा में ठीक कार्य हो । हम जहाँ जाते हैं वहाँ बताया जाता है कि काम इस बारे में चल रहा है । इसलिए हम इस नतीजे पर पहुँचे हैं कि इस काम में प्रगति हो रही है ।

**श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :** मेरा प्रश्न तो यह था कि क्या सरकार ने यह जानने का प्रयत्न किया है कि द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना की समाप्ति तक कुष्ठ के रोगियों की संख्या कितनी घटी है, अर्थात् पहले भारत वर्ष में

जितने रोगी ये द्वितीय योजना के अन्त में उनमें कितनी कमी हो गयी है ।

**श्री करमरकर :** संख्या तो अन्दाजे से बतायी गयी है । कुल २५ लाख रोगियों का अनुमान है । और आजकल जो इत्तला मिल रही है उससे पता चलता है कि ज्यादा परिमाण में रोगी ठीक हो जाते हैं और वापस अपने घर चले जाते हैं ।

**अध्यक्ष महीदय :** ठीक संख्या नहीं जानते ?

**Shri Karmarkar:** We ave no exact record, but the report shows distinctly that there is an improvement in the situation and that more patients are getting treated and more are getting cured, and that this domiciliary treatment that is now extended is doing good to the patients.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Is it a fact that the disease being an infectious disease, the number of patients is reported to be increasing rather than decreasing?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir, that is not our information. As my hon. friend very well knows, unlike T.B., it is not so easily infectious. A person has to live for a long time with another, say like a child with its father. The report says that more and more patients are getting cured, and in the next few years we hope to fully control the disease.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Comments have been invited from only four States—Andhra, Madras, West Bengal and one other. May I know if comments have been invited from these States because the incidence of leprosy is higher in these States?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, relatively higher.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know what positive steps have been taken to put all the lepers who are roaming here and there into asylums, because we find a number of them in the streets?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There are two classes of patients. One is the bona fide class who suffer from it and who seek treatment. To all these we have extended the domiciliary treatment. As I said, these subsidiary centres about 139 in number, have been so equipped that they go to every village in their jurisdiction and examine every man, woman and child. Till now about 80,000 have been under constant treatment. For the other class, who would like to exploit their disease in order to earn more by going to the cities, some such law has been considered necessary as in Bombay, and as has been applied now in Delhi. Therefore, this aspect is going into the limited question of dealing with leper beggars. Regarding the others, the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

**Dr. Samantsinhar:** Are all cases infectious?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, about three-fourths are not.

**Dr. Samantsinhar:** What percentage would be infectious?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The remaining one-fourth would be infectious.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:** May I know whether there is any proposal before the committee or the Government to assist private organisations which are carrying on treatment of leprosy on their own initiative?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, Sir. We have been fairly liberally making grants in respect of private organisations. Recently we have asked some of the private organisations to take up the work exactly on the basis of the Government subsidised centres, and I am glad to tell the House that as many as ten to 15 organisations have agreed to take up the work.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The hon. Minister said that the opinions of the State Governments have been sought. May I know whether after this committee submits its report, reference will be made to the State Governments again?

**Mr. Speaker:** After the committee reports, is it going to be circulated among the States once again?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes. We need all the co-operation of the State Governments. It is the State Governments that have to be activated in this matter. Therefore, the recommendations of the Central Council of Health will be sent to the State Governments. In fact, in the Council all the State Governments are represented through their Ministers.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Minister stated that the total number was about 25 lakhs. I would like to know whether the number has increased or not.

**Mr. Speaker:** He said "No".

#### Railway Accident near Kumbakonam

\*92. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras bound Trivandrum Fast Passenger met with a serious accident near Kumbakonam on the 2nd March, 1962;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the extent of damage to property and persons;

(d) whether suitable enquiry has been instituted; and

(e) if so, result thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At about 19.46 hrs. on 2nd March, 1962, while No. 110 Trivandrum-Madras Egmore Passenger, consisting of 11 bogies, was being received on Road No. 3 at Sundaraperumalkoil on Tiruchirappalli-Mayuram Main Line, the engine and the first two coaches derailed.

(c) Railway property worth Rs. 7,860 approximately was damaged and 17 persons including 13 railway

employees were injured of whom 2 received grievous injuries.

(d) Yes; by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(e) Findings of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety are awaited.

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the fact that this accident was a serious one and that greater damage would have been caused but for the fact that the capsized engine and two bogeys rested against a tree as was given in many pictures, I would like to know whether the result of the enquiry held by the Assistant Commissioner of Railway Safety will be made available to the Railway Accidents Enquiry Committee which has been set up?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** If they ask for it, it will be certainly made available to them.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether the report of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety will be placed on the Table of this House? I am making this request because this is one of the serious accidents which have taken place after the three major accidents which prompted the appointment of the Railway Accident Enquiry Committee.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** It is a question of general policy. The report has to be laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Transport under which the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety comes. As far as we are concerned, I do not see any reason why we should take objection to this.

**Shri Tangamani:** It was also mentioned in the papers that four persons received serious injuries and were still in the hospital. I would like to know whether the injuries are of such a nature that there will be permanent disablement in their cases.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Two persons had received grievous injuries, and both of them have been discharged from hospital.