

*743. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations in the report of the Experts Committee appointed to examine the railway bridge in Secunderabad Division, Central Railway,

(b) whether the Railway Administration is going to initiate action on any of them before the setting in of monsoon, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to watch the railway bridges during the rainy season?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: (a) and (b) It has already been stated in my reply to Starred Question No 180 given on 20-5-57 that the report was received on 11-5-57 and the same is under consideration. There has been no material change since then.

(c) Necessary steps will be taken according to the instructions already issued on the subject.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The question asks, "What are the main recommendations in the report of the Experts Committee?"

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I have just stated that the matter is under consideration, and after we have considered it we will be able to give it out.

Mr. Speaker: After consideration they will place it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Am I to understand that the report of the Committee will not be placed unless and until it has been examined by the Railway Board?

Mr. Speaker: That is the usual course—unless it is examined by Government.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: This is a technical report.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it is.

Short Notice Questions and Answers Infectious Diseases Hospital in Delhi

†

S.N.Q. No. 11. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Easwara Iyer:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a report in the Times of India (Delhi) of the 28th May, 1957 regarding the state of affairs of the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Delhi, and

(b) what immediate steps, if any, Government propose to take in order to minimise the hardships to patients and risk to public health in the Capital?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) Yes

(b) The Delhi Administration has already taken up the laying of a 8" main for the improvement of the water supply to hospital. The question of increasing the accommodation and strengthening the medical and ancillary staff of the hospital is also under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

I would like to add, Sir, that the following steps are contemplated to be taken or under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

(1) An increase in the strength of the medical and ancillary staff is under consideration,

(2) Provision of extra filtered water supply—by means of the six inch main to which I referred,

(3) Provision of another sewage tank for better disposal of sewage is, again, under the consideration of the C P W D.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is reported that patients suffering from tuberculosis are being treated in the verandahs. This, naturally, will involve grave risk to public health. May I know whether Government have made any

provision for the immediate transfer of such patients as are kept in the verandahs and huts to enclosed places?

Shri Karmarkar. There is no difficulty about transferring, but the question is where to. And therefore instead of refusing patients, we are trying to accommodate them in the space which is there. Due to the want of sufficient space there, there is naturally a little overcrowding.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Before this report was published, has it ever been brought to the notice of the Government of India that patients with chicken-pox and with acute tuberculosis are allowed to be kept in thatched huts in this sweltering heat of Delhi for quite a number of days?

Shri Karmarkar. It was some time before this report appeared that we went into this matter and we sent a man from the Government of India to look into this matter—it was a surprise visit—and we have made our own suggestions to the Delhi Administration. And, as I said, the Delhi Administration are contemplating, as far as possible, immediate relief in the matter to the extent that is possible.

Shri Easwara Iyer. May I know whether it is a fact that the Director of Health Services stated that much could not be done regarding accommodation of these unfortunate victims of tuberculosis, mumps and chicken pox?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I could not follow the question.

Mr Speaker. Regarding accommodation it appears that the Director of Health Services has said that it is not possible to provide any accommodation for these unfortunate people, and whether these patients suffering from such ailments are housed in huts?

Shri Karmarkar: Let me frankly confess to the House that the extent to which we are able to give relief is

not adequate fully to meet the situation, nor can anything wonderful be done in the matter. Here is a hospital that was meant for 150 beds. Actually more patients are coming in. Rather than throwing them on the street, we have been trying to squeeze them in the accommodation there. If the House does not approve of it, we may think of sending them out. It is such a big problem in the State of Delhi. The Delhi Administration has been struggling its best to see that the accommodation is increased to the extent possible.

Some Hon Members rose

Mr Speaker. Next question.

New Virus Disease in Mysore State

S.N.Q. No. 12. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) whether the Virus Research Institute of Poona has diagnosed the "Mystery" disease as Russian Spring Summer encephalitis

(b) whether the findings have been confirmed by any foreign experts, and

(c) if so, what precautions have been taken by Government to check the spread of the "Mystery" disease?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar) (a) yes

(b) The diagnosis of the virus was done by the staff of the Virus Research Centre, Poona, among whom were 2 foreign experts—namely Dr Work and Dr Trapido, lent by the Rockefeller Foundation. No other foreign expert was requisitioned to confirm the diagnosis.

(c) Certain preventive measures for controlling the ticks have been taken, like burning of dry leaves within a few furlongs of the affected villages, spraying of Gammexene in all houses in the affected area, cyanofumigation of virus to destroy the rodents. Immunisation of the population with yellow fever vaccine is also contemplated.

Shri Sanganna: What is the reason for calling this disease as mysterious?