

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?

Shri Karmarkar: Mysterious because this is the first time that it has occurred in India in recent times, mysterious further because the exact source was not known till we found it namely ticks carried by monkeys and transferred to man and mysterious because it cannot be labelled under any of the known diseases

Shri Sanganna: What are the symptoms of this mysterious disease?

Mr. Speaker: We are going into the details. Only a doctor can explain. Next question.

Delegation of Indian Scientists to Russia

S.N.Q. No. 13. Shri S. C. Samanta. Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Russia Academy of Science has requested the Government of India to send a delegation of Indian Scientists to Russia;

(b) whether the request has been acceded to,

(c) if so, how the selection of members of the delegation has been made,

(d) when the delegation is likely to leave,

(e) who will bear their expenses, and

(f) who will be the leader of the delegation?

The Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das).

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Selection has been made from the leading scientists of the country in various fields of scientific and technological activity and research. Scientists who have visited the Soviet

Union before have not been included. Also some scientists, who were tentatively selected but expressed their inability to join the delegation have been replaced by others. The list has not yet been finalised.

(d) The delegation will leave for the Soviet Union as soon as arrangements are completed.

(e) In the Soviet Union the delegates will be the guests of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. All expenses to the border of the Soviet Union and back will be borne by the Government of India.

(f) Dr K S Krishnan, Director of the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, is expected to lead the delegation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is a fact that in making this selection, scientists engaged in fundamental research and professors of Universities have been ignored and only Directors of Government Institutes have been selected?

Shri M. M. Das: It is not a fact. If the hon Member examines the list of delegates

Shri Hem Barua: There is no list, the list is not finalised.

Shri M. M. Das: There is a tentative list. Final means, it has not yet been finalised by the Government of India. The Cabinet has to give the final decision.

If the hon Member examines the list, he will find that at least 50 per cent of members of this delegation are University professors and scientists who are engaged in fundamental research. If you will permit me, I can give the names also.

Mr. Speaker: No

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether all the names, recommended by the Russian Academy, of Indian scientists have been selected or some have been left?