

*742. **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**

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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?

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?

Shri M. M. Das: All of them have not been selected. The Russians in their invitation suggested the names of certain persons who wanted to go to Russia. The names are as follows: Dr C. V. Raman, Prof M. S Thacker, Prof. Srimvasan, the then Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr Lahiri, Director of the Fuel Research Institute, and Dr. Naga, presumably Dr. Nagin Chaudhury of the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta. And out of these, I think only one, Dr Lahiri, Director of the Fuel Research Institute, is going to Russia. For various reasons the other scientists could not be included.

Movement of Foodgrains to Bihar

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S.N.Q. { Shri P. G. Sen:
No. 14. { Shri A. K. Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains booked from Visakhapatnam and other places of storage have reached their destination in the scarcity areas of Bihar; and

(b) when were orders for the despatch to Purnia given and when the foodgrains are expected to reach there in view of the growing distress in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A portion of the foodgrains booked has reached the destinations and the balance is in transit

(b) From 1-5-1957 upto 27-5-1957, 57 B.G. wagons were booked from Bombay and Visakapatnam to Purnia of which 22 wagons were from Bombay 37 M.G. wagons of foodgrains have already reached that station, and intimation has been received from the Civil Authorities that further wagons are not immediately required at Purnia and that further consignments, over and above those in transit, are not for the time being required there.

Shri P. G. Sen: Has any priority been given to such consignments?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. Top priority is given to the movement of foodgrains to deficit areas.

Shri P. C. Sen: May I know the time taken in this transhipment?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Some of the wagons were booked from Visakhapatnam on 10th May, and as I have stated in my reply they have reached there already, and in fact, the District Supply Officer feels so satisfied with the movement of foodgrains that he says he does not require any more

Taxation Proposals

S.N.Q. No. 15. **Shri B. C. Kamble:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about a week prior to the Minister of Finance placing the taxation proposals before Lok Sabha about 1,65,000 (one lakh and sixty five thousands) tons of sugar was released by Government from factory godowns and that almost the whole quantity of sugar was immediately sold out in about 5 to 6 days;

(b) whether any other commodities which were proposed to be taxed, were released by Government during the period commencing from the discussion of taxation proposals by Government and ending with placing of the proposals before Lok Sabha; and

(c) if so, quantum of each of these commodities?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir. On the 6th of May, 1,63,558 tons is reported to have been released for sale in the internal market under the provision of the Sugar Control Order. The quantity released bears comparison with the quantities usually released from time to time under this Order. For instance