

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday 12th August, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Infective Hepatitis

*780 Shri D C Sharma. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any cases of infective hepatitis have been reported during the months of May, June and July, 1957 in Delhi or New Delhi?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar) Nineteen cases of infective hepatitis were reported in Delhi and New Delhi during the months of May, June and July, 1957

Shri D C Sharma. May I know what long-term arrangements have been made by the Ministry for the prevention of the re-occurrence of this disease?

Shri Karmarkar. We are hoping that this will always remain a short-term problem. We are not anticipating a long-term problem at all.

Shri D C Sharma. May I know the proportion of cases in Delhi and New Delhi?

Shri Karmarkar. In Delhi, as against 15 cases in January, 1957, out of which there were three deaths, in July, 1957, there were no fresh cases but two deaths. In New Delhi, as against 14 cases in January, there were only 3 in July, and there was one death in July.

Shri Easwara Iyer. May I know whether the Minister is aware that there are effective Ayurvedic remedies for infective hepatitis?

Mr Speaker. That was brought to the notice of the House some time ago. All remedies will be tried.

Shri Karmarkar. Yes, there is an Ayurvedic method of dealing with infective hepatitis, just as there is an allopathic way.

Mr Speaker. Whenever any hon Member gets a particular remedy from a sadhu or a saint or any other person, he may immediately inform the hon Minister, instead of questioning the knowledge of the Minister.

Dr. P Subbarayan. Considering the number of deaths and the number of cases that have occurred, will Government not take any steps to see that some remedy is found for preventing such deaths?

Shri Karmarkar. This disease, as my hon friend might be knowing, spreads through contamination of articles of food and drink, principally. Filtered water supply in urban areas is under supervision. Regular disinfection of wells in rural and semi-urban areas is being done. Cut fruits and cooked food exposed to dust and flies are destroyed by the Health Departments of the local bodies. These are the measures we are taking.

Khandwa-Hingoli Rail Link

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

(a) the total amount spent upto the end of March, 1957 on Khandwa-Hingoli rail link,

(b) whether the amount has exceeded the original estimate; and

(c) if so, by how much?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) Rs 37 crores

(b) and (c) The revised estimate of the Project is Rs 124 crores as against the previous estimate of Rs 89 crores

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I find that there is an increase in the estimates to the tune of nearly 50 per cent. May I know the materials for which this extra expenditure is being provided for?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The main factors that have contributed towards the increase in the case of the first revised estimates are as under. The increase in the cost of permanent way comes to Rs 1108 lakhs. More expenditure under bridge works due to increase in the prices of material, particularly, cement and steel, inadequacy of bund and waterways as provided for in sanctioned estimates, etc comes to Rs 1943 lakhs. Similarly, there are other items like formation works, increase in the cost of tunnels, increase in the cost of material and equipment in connection with signalling, interlocking etc.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some sections of this railway link were to have been opened in the month of July or August. May I know whether they have since been opened, particularly the sections between Hingoli and Konargaon and that between Khandwa and Piplood?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The only section that has been opened for traffic is that from Khandwa to Takhai, which is 18.8 miles in length.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Is it open for passenger traffic also?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: Yes, to all forms of traffic.

Shri Kashiwal: We are told that with the completion of this line, the entire metre gauge system of the

country will be linked up. If so, may I know whether this line between Khandwa and Hingoli will be completed in time?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): That is the expectation.

Shri Shah nawas Khan: We are hoping to complete it well within time. The only limiting factor is the availability of materials, that is, imported materials. If the materials are available, we shall complete it in time.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know the time-schedule for the completion of this line, and whether the funds allotted will be enough to enable the completion of the line in time?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: We hope to complete this line by the end of 1959, and the funds sanctioned are sufficient.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: When was the first estimate prepared?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: Estimates have been prepared from time to time, and the latest one.

Mr. Speaker: He wants the earliest one.

Shri Shah nawas Khan: That was, some time in 1952.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: From the reply of the Minister, I find that about 50 per cent increase has been there. I want to know when the first estimate was prepared, and how this 50 per cent increase has taken place.

Mr. Speaker: He said that the first estimate was prepared some time in 1952 or so.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It was sanctioned on 1st March, 1954.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Minister has stated that the whole line will be opened for traffic in 1959. For opening a rail length of about 20 miles, which is just about 20 per cent of the total length, we took about four years. That being the case, how can we complete the additional length within two years from now?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: It is not as if we have been working just on those 30 miles and we have not done any more work. It will be of interest to the hon. Member to know that we have completed 70 per cent of the entire earth work, that is, 86 miles have been completed, and 83 miles are in progress. Similarly, in the case of bridges, out of a total of 48 major bridges, we have completed 13, and we are working on 22. Similarly, the work is in progress throughout the entire line.

Compensatory (City) Allowance

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782. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
 { **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
 { **Shri Vajpayee:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the grant of compensatory (city) allowance to non-gazetted railway employees is considered on population basis,

(b) if so, whether the classification of Amritsar, Jullundur and Ludhiana was done on the same basis,

(c) whether the case of Ferozepore was considered at any stage, and

(d) if not, why Ferozepore was excluded?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) and (d) As the population of Ferozepore according to 1951 census was less than 1 lakh, it was not included in the list of towns eligible for Compensatory (City) Allowance or House Rent Allowance.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know the population of Ferozepore now, and if it comes under this category, whether the question of including this place also will be considered?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: The latest figures we have is of the 1951 census. According to that, the population of Ferozepore City and Cantonment is just less than 80,000.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the hon. Minister's statement that the grant of compensatory allowance is on the basis of population, may I know if cities with a population of one lakh will be placed under 'C' grade?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: The list of cities has been prepared and cities with a population of over one lakh and fifteen thousand are included.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the question of the city of Tuticorn, where the population is more than a lakh, was raised?

Mr Speaker: How many cities are there in India where the population is more than a lakh? The hon. Minister cannot remember about every city. He will kindly write to the Minister.

Shri Tangamani: He has been written to.

Mr Speaker: If he has not answered, he can put a separate question.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Minister has said that the latest figures on which this is based are the 1951 census. May I know if payment of house rent and city compensatory allowance is revised only once in ten years?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: We go by the latest figures.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member only wants to know if there is an addition by way of dearness allowance and so on if it is found after the census that there is so much of increase in population, and therefore erstwhile 'non-cities' will be converted into cities according to the growth of population, and whether it is done only once in ten years.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): After the result of the census is announced, if the population of certain cities, which during the previous census was less than a lakh, becomes more than a lakh, such cities qualify for such allowance. But here again the difficulty is that we cannot get authentic population figures unless a census is held.