

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, why these reports are treated as confidential, as the recommendations of the Advisory Boards are to be implemented for the benefit of the passengers and the people?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Because they are confidential.

Mr. Speaker: They are going to be placed in the Library of the House. They will cease to be confidential when they are placed there.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether these local Advisory Committees have already been abolished?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Yes, Sir, they have been.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What are the specific reasons for setting up new consultative committees in place of Advisory Boards?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Actually, Sir, the functions of the Local Advisory Committees are much the same as the functions of the Local Consultative Committee. But to bring them in line with the new reorganisation of Railways we have considered it necessary to change the system.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN TUBERCULOSIS

*1343. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Government of India have given a grant to the Indian Council of Medical Research for a scheme for epidemiological research in Tuberculosis and if so, what is the amount of the grant?

(b) What is the nature of work contemplated and have any suggestions been made by the Indian Council of Medical Research regarding the expenditure of the amount so granted?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The Government of India have under consideration the question of payment during 1953-54 of a grant to the Indian Council of Medical Research for a scheme of epidemiological research in tuberculosis.

(b) The purpose of the study is to assess the comparative utility of the different anti-tuberculosis measures under Indian conditions. The Indian Council of Medical Research will utilise the grant for the payment of salary and allowances of the research staff and other contingent expenditure.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether this research scheme contemplates the setting up of statistical side and also experimental epidemiology?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether any efforts will be made to study epidemiology in relation to industrial workers suffering from tuberculosis?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Certainly, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, what special steps will be taken under this scheme to study incidence of tuberculosis among the industrial workers of India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The scheme is in its infancy; the actual details have not been worked out. I am anxious that we should have a survey of the incidence of T. B. among industrial workers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether in this experimental epidemiology, laboratory tests will also be conducted on animals?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: These details will have to be looked into.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The hon. Minister has given the figures of grant for payment of salaries etc. of staff engaged. Could I know who bears the actual expenditure for the research side?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Indian Council of Medical Research will be given money by the Government of India. The scheme at the moment contemplates an expenditure of Rs. 3.26 lakhs, out of which 1 lakh has been budgeted for this year. In addition, we are going to get international help also in the form of equipment, transport vehicles, mobile dispensaries etc.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any expert has been provided by WHO and whether any materials have been given to the research organisation?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The Tuberculosis Research Office of W.H.O. at Copenhagen have supplied experts and they are also giving equipment, e.g. transport vehicles, mobile X-ray units, X-ray films etc.