

India Medical Conference held at Patna did not express any views in the matter.'

(b) The question does not arise. Moreover the Government are themselves fully aware of existing conditions.

(c) Not so far as Government are aware.

(d) Does not, therefore, arise.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know, Madam.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not yet become a Madam.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know, Sir, whether Government have considered one of the decisions of this conference that the old process of hospitalisation is not of much significance, and have they proposed that there should be immediate provision for free mass X-ray in all the important towns and sub-divisional towns? May we know if Government propose to give effect to this in any way?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Sir, as a matter of fact when I rang up the Secretary of the All-India Medical Association yesterday he said that no resolution had been passed on TB at all. But the proposal that has been read out by the hon. Member is already under the consideration of Government inasmuch as all State Governments have been informed that this would be one way of tackling the problem. It is all a question of how much money is available.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know, Sir, whether under the integrated health programme of the village community plans there is any proposal to have anti-TB clinics and free X-ray sets?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir; not under the Community Projects.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know, whether there is any other plan which is being undertaken by the Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, Health is a subject in which the States are autonomous. They are doing a great deal by way of TB preventive measures such as BCG, increase in the number of beds and ancillary treatment. All these measures are being carried out to the extent possible.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know if the Central Government propose to give any help to the States in this direction?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Central Government is giving a great deal of help, e.g. in BCG campaign and the TB Seals campaign which has also been started by the Centre; 94 per cent. of the proceeds of the campaign goes to the States.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Planning Commission did not consult the Indian Medical Association in formulating anti-TB and other health measures?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, that question might be referred to the Planning Commission.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that in the Patna Conference a resolution was passed regretting that the Planning Commission did not consult the Medical Association for such purposes, including control of tuberculosis?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The question refers to the Planning Commission and not to the Central Ministry of Health.

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to (b), may I know, Sir, whether Government have started or intend to start research on epidemiology of tuberculosis under Indian conditions?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, a great deal of research has already been done and is being carried out also.

B. C. G. VACCINATION

*238. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what are the plans of Government for implementing the programme of B.C.G. vaccination in the year 1953?

(b) How many persons have already been vaccinated till now and how many more are estimated to be covered by the end of this year?

(c) Are Government aware of the controversy that exists among doctors on the efficacy of B.C.G.?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 34.]

(b) Up to the 31st December, 1952, over 1.3 crores of people were tuberculin tested and over 40 lakhs were B.C.G. vaccinated. It is expected that 3 crores and 1 crore respectively will have been tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated by the end of 1953.

(c) The Government are aware that a few doctors are doubtful of the efficacy of B.C.G. vaccination. On the other hand, expert medical opinion in the country and elsewhere is overwhelmingly in favour of B.C.G. vaccination, which is a cheap, safe and effective preventive measure against tuberculosis.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know, Sir, with reference to the statement which has been laid on the Table of this House, how many of those who have been declared to be 'tuberculin-negative' individuals will be vaccinated this year?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I require notice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In the statement it is said that there are at present 42 Technician teams and 30 ordinary teams. These ordinary teams are used for organising groups such as schools, clinics and maternity homes. May we know whether there are no technicians attached to the ordinary teams? What is the difference between them?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): It is not quite correct to say that there are no technicians attached, because after all the ordinary teams have also supervision. Why there are not more technician teams depends naturally on how much money the States are willing to add to what the Centre has given them.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In the statement, it says that this year, 1953, we will be having 130 Technician Teams. Does it mean that we have been able to train a large number of technicians and, if so, how many and by whom they have been trained?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not tell you, Sir, the number of those that have been trained, but we are constantly training persons. A great many have been trained and if we had not had them we would not have been able to put forward this extensive programme of mass vaccination.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Yesterday the hon. Minister gave a broadcast to the nation tracing the history of B.C.G. in brief. May I know, Sir, whether from this talk people are to gather that Government is of the opinion that there is no controversy at all about the efficacy of B.C.G.?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is certainly of opinion that B.C.G. is one efficacious method of prevention of T.B.

Shri Dabhi: May we know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinion of Prof. Jay Arthur Myers, TB authority at the University of Minnesota appearing in the *Time* of June 4, 1951 and reproduced in *Harijan* of August 4, 1951 to the following effect.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may say what it contains.

Shri Dabhi: Only two sentences, Sir.

"The bacilli in the vaccines often are so weakened that they soon die, having had no effect, or are so virulent that they actually cause tuberculosis.

Such induced tuberculosis is mild at first and may stay dormant for years, then flare up as a serious disease.

Those vaccinated with B.C.G. give a positive reaction to tuberculin afterwards; hence this test for the presence of tuberculosis is useless in their case."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I may say at once that so far as the Question-hour is concerned, these extracts ought not to be read hereafter. The Question-hour cannot be monopolised by a single question. Hon. Members must digest whatever is contained in such extracts in one sentence or half a sentence.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The hon. Member has read out the opinion of one Doctor. I can read out the opinions of expert committees which were set up under the aegis of the W.H.O. from all the countries of the world who have testified to the efficacy of BCG.

Shri S. N. Das: Arising out of answer to part (b). I would like to know the break-up of the figures state-wise.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I want notice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The statement says that W.H.O. will provide 7 foreign BCG personnel up to the end of 1953. After 1953, will we be self-sufficient so that we have our own experts to carry on?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think so—I believe that we shall be able to carry on and be self-sufficient.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this BCG is used in U.K. and U.S.A. and other countries?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: BCG is being used in U.K. to protect all those who are serving in TB hospitals and sanatoria. It is widely used in the U.S.A. in the southern hemisphere.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: In countries where BCG has been in operation on a large scale, Government has simultaneously prepared schemes for making curative arrangements. What is the intention of the Government in that direction here?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, we are going forward with curative measures as quickly as possible. For example, from 5,000 beds, when I took over, today we have 15,000. If I could get more money I could go ahead much faster, but that is my difficulty, as hon. Members know.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May we know whether it is a fact that for BCG to be effective, it will have to be vaccinated every year, and, if so, whether Government is taking any steps to see that those who have been vaccinated are assured of being vaccinated in the years to come?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, yearly vaccination is by no means necessary. In fact they say, they do not know for how many years the effect of one vaccination will last.

Shri G. P. Sinha: How many of these teams are working in Bihar in this behalf and how are they functioning?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Evidently the hon. Member comes from Bihar. He may put down a separate question.

Shri K. K. Basu: What is the Government's contribution to this tripartite Fund and how is it administered?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is no question of a Fund. It is a question of the aid which W.H.O. gives us. It really works out to 50-50 as between foreign help and our contribution.

PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN BONGAON AND RANAGHAT

*239. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the special importance of Bongaon and Ranaghat stations because of their close proximity to the borders of Pakistan and of the very dense concentration of displaced persons in those areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that the trains running to these

junctions and the stations on the lines lack minimum passenger amenities and that trains on these lines are slow-moving; and

(c) whether Government are aware that thousands of passengers travel daily on these lines to Calcutta for earning their livelihood and whether Government have made any plan of providing some fast moving passenger service trains during the office hours?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). All passenger amenities which are normally provided on suburban trains have also been provided in the trains running on the Calcutta-Ranaghat and Calcutta-Bongaon sections. As regards provision of passenger amenities at stations on these sections, they are being provided on a programme basis. Local trains on the Calcutta-Bongaon and Calcutta-Ranaghat sections are booked to run at speeds between 36 and 40 miles per hour against the maximum permissible speed of 45 miles per hour, after allowing for the time for halts and engineering restrictions and on the Calcutta-Bongaon single line section also for crossings. It is not feasible to accelerate the speeds of these trains or reduce the frequency and duration of the halts which are necessary to meet the requirements of the traffic to be catered for. On the Ranaghat-Calcutta double line section, there are also five long distance fast trains each way booked to run at 45 miles per hour.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government have any idea of putting more trains so that those who come from these places to Calcutta as daily passengers may have convenient trains to come to their offices?

Shri Alagesan: There are already a number of trains. As far as the Calcutta-Ranaghat section is concerned, out of a total of 34 local trains each way, 30 are booked to stop at all stations; on the Calcutta Bongaon section out of a total of 12 trains each way, 11 trains are booked to stop at all stations which are less than 4 miles distant from each other.

Shri A. C. Guha: That is not the reply to my question. I want to know whether the Government have any idea of putting some more trains during office hours?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is the Government aware that on those two lines