

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 12th August, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE IN POONA AND
AHMADNAGAR

*398. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the
Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a result of the investigation which was being undertaken by leading medical men including scientists, sponsored by W.H.O. in connection with a mysterious disease which has been noticed in some parts of Poona and Ahmadnagar with symptoms of intense thirst, loss of appetite and gradual weakness, any discovery as to the nature of the disease and its treatment could be made; and

(b) if so, whether the problem has been tackled?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). The investigations carried out by the Bombay Public Health Department and the discussions held with leading medical men including those who formed part of the visiting team of medical Scientists sponsored by the World Health Organisation, have not helped in arriving at any definite conclusions, either as regards the nature of the disease that occurred in parts of Poona and Ahmadnagar, or the mode of its

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treatment which can be said to be uniformly efficacious. One indisputable factor regarding the treatment of the disease is that rest in bed and routine hospital diet helps the majority of cases to recover. The problem of the disease cannot obviously be tackled until its causes are definitely established.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know how many cases of attack by this disease have come to the notice of the Government and if any number of them have been treated successfully?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have not got the statistics, Sir.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the disease has been noticed anywhere else in India?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, Sir.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether the disease is on the increase for want of proper treatment?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, it has since subsided.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether any number of persons have died as a result of this disease?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Not that we know of.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the disease is spreading or is under check?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have said that it has subsided.