

The Central Water and Power Commission is not under me, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Are Government aware of the scheme of any international organisation to use atomic energy to control deserts with irrigation schemes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would be dangerous to use atomic energy at this stage in our country. It is very likely to be misused by hon. Members opposite.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें मालूम है कि दिल्ली में राजस्थान के रेगिस्तान की तरफ से बड़े जोर से सैंड, रेत उड़ कर आती है और बड़ा तूफान मच जाता है ? क्या इस को रोकने का कोई तरीका सोचा गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेंगमसुख : यह उसी का हिस्सा है, जिसको वह समझते हैं कि रेगिस्तान का विस्तार हो रहा है। इस की हमें पूरी मालुमात है और हम जानते हैं कि यह विस्तार हो रहा है और इसीलिये यह सब किया जा रहा है।

ANTI-LEPROSY WORK

*676. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reports have been received from the States regarding anti-leprosy work under the Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what is the nature of work done in the States so far and how far it has been effective in preventing the incidence of leprosy;

(c) whether any census of lepers has been undertaken on an all-India basis, and if so, how many lepers are there in India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, why this work has not been undertaken?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 57.]

(c) No.

(d) A census of leprosy patients on an all India basis does not appear to be a feasible proposition under existing conditions, largely because a considerable number of leprosy cases will not like to be classified as such.

Dr. Rama Rao: The statement says, on page two, under Madras, "Government have also accepted the suggestion of the Director of Medical Services for utilising non-official workers in the prevention, control and treatment of leprosy and sanctioned the training of lay workers for one month to enable them to spot leprosy cases, advise them to obtain proper treatment and to arrange for sending badly infected cases to sanatorium to facilitate preventive measures...etc."

May I know if any proposals have been placed before Government to train practitioners of other systems in this limited field?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Not that I know of.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the total amount allotted for combating leprosy and the amount already spent?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: By whom?

Shri Punnoose: By the Central Government in the Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The Government of India have set apart Rs. 15 lakhs for the formation of a Leprosy Research Institute and that Institute will be in Madras. In addition, the total amount set apart by the Part A State Governments is Rs. 71.93 lakhs, by the Part B States Rs. 21.7 lakhs and by the Part C States Rs. 11.31 lakhs, making a total of Rs. 104.94 lakhs altogether in the Five Year Plan.

Shri Punnoose: In the statement it is mentioned that the amount allotted

to Travancore-Cochin was not utilised. May I know whether Government have a picture of the incidence of leprosy in that State?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Travancore-Cochin Government are naturally responsible for the work they do themselves. In the Five Year Plan they are going to spend Rs. 1 lakh on a leprosy hospital.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the estimated number of lepers in India and also the percentage of lepers getting accommodation in State-owned or private hospitals?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As my hon. colleague replied a census of lepers is really not possible. We estimate roughly that there must be about two million lepers in India. I am sorry to say, there are not enough homes for them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would like to know the percentage of lepers who now get accommodation in leper asylums?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not got the figures with me now. But I am able to say that the percentage is small.

Dr. Jaisoorya: Has the Central Government given the States any over-all plan to work?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir. We discuss this at the Central Council of Health and they do get over-all plans for control of leprosy.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the Empire Leprosy Association several years ago had made a survey of the number of lepers all over the country and how that compares with the present estimate?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not say how it compares with the present estimate. I imagine that the number must have increased.

Shrimati A. Kale: Is Government aware that leprosy is on the increase

as a whole and that the percentage of leprosy has gone up in the State of Madhya Pradesh from 1 per cent. to 5 per cent. If so, what steps are Government taking to arrest this growth?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As a matter of fact the Madhya Pradesh Government is the one which is going in more than any of the other Governments for the control of leprosy. I am aware of the increase but it is always a question of lack of funds.

Shrimati A. Kale: What is the contribution from the Centre?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It can be seen from the statement placed on the Table of the House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the Travancore-Cochin Government has had to postpone its anti-leprosy schemes in view of the fact that there is considerable incidence of leprosy in that State and that there is not even one bed for every one thousand patients?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know, Sir. Every State puts up its own plans. Travancore-Cochin has been allotted Rs. 1 lakh in the Five Year Plan. The Central Government has given them what they wanted.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR RESEARCH WORK

*677. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the names, nationality, qualifications, etc., of the recipients of fellowships for Research work assigned to Indian institutions by the W.H.O. since 1949 (year-wise)?

(b) How were these Fellowship holders selected?

(c) What is the amount granted under each Fellowship?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No fellowships have been provided by the World Health Organisation for research work in India.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.