

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.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know, Sir, if any fellowships have been given to do research in India and if so what is the number for 1952 and 1953?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Fellowships have been awarded by the W. H. O. to people from foreign countries to be trained in India. 12 fellowships were awarded in 1952 and 9 in 1953.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, if any scholarships have been awarded for research in tropical diseases?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, Sir.

FAMILY PLANNING SCHEME

*678. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two Field Workers have been provided by the WHO in the Population studies conducted under the Family Planning Scheme at Ramnagar and New Delhi?

(b) If so, what work have they been doing so far?

(c) What is the amount spent on them by Government so far on (i) their internal travel, (ii) cost of lodging, (iii) office accommodation and (iv) secretarial assistance in New Delhi and Ramnagar, separately?

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

(b) They are engaged in visiting married couples in the experimental areas for the collection of data and for imparting instructions in the Rhythm method.

(c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 53.]

Shri Gidwani: May I know, Sir, whether any arrangements have been made in all the hospitals of Delhi for opening birth control clinics to prevent growth of population?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: I would request hon. Members to just wait and not put the

questions before I call their names. If all the Members stand up and begin asking questions there will be so much confusion.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, if there are any figures to show how his plan has succeeded?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The Interim Report that we received from Ramnagar and New Delhi gave fair hope of success but naturally in experiments like this one cannot give a definite reply for, as I said, the experiment has been going on for a very short time and no conclusions can be arrived at before a period of at least two years of experimentation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Only recently we have read in the papers the review of the work done in Delhi. It is said that unless education of the people is higher the scheme cannot be successful. As such, may I know how does the Government take up this matter and whether there will be any scheme for imparting education side by side with this.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: In the centres that are being run by the Central Ministry of Health education is being imparted.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that there are religious organisations who are carrying on propaganda against the rhythm method of this plan and whether Government are counteracting such propaganda?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is no propaganda being carried on against the rhythm method. There are definite objections to other methods which are not being sponsored by the Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that hardly 1-2 per cent. of those who come for the first time to clinics go for further instructions?