

know whether Government is sanguine about imports from Pakistan being regular and continuous?

**Shri Kidwai:** I have stated several times that jute production will go up or go down according to the prices of alternative crops. The price of rice in Bengal is very low and the jute prices are just now high. Jute production will go up.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the Government have thought of any plan other than fixing of the price of jute, to have more production?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** This is the report of the Expert Committee. We have accepted it in its entirety and we are going to execute this plan.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether there has been any improvement in our programme of production of quality jute?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** There has been some improvement. But, the improvement will be marked when we execute this plan

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the difficulty that lies in fixing a minimum price for jute?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The price of jute is governed by external factors, the market for it in foreign countries and the supply position in Pakistan. We will have to take all these things into consideration. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has appointed a Committee and they are going into the problem.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know what are our annual requirements of raw jute and what is the quantum of deficit that we have in it?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have got a surplus.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I did not hear the question, Sir. Perhaps I might have given a wrong reply.

**Mr. Speaker:** We have gone to the next question.

#### RESEARCH IN LEPROSY

\*712. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a Central Institute for teaching and research in leprosy in Madras State; and

(b) if so, how far has the scheme progressed?

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

(b) The Government of India have recently approved the scheme and steps are being taken to implement it.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know whether Government propose to start such Institutes in other States where leprosy is spreading?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** No.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know whether Government are aware that anti-leprosy work is being done by Gandhi Memorial Foundation which has also made arrangements to impart training at Sevagram?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** I am not quite sure.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Gandhi Memorial Foundation is making an experiment by using Ayurvedic medicines. May I know whether Government also will give a chance to Vaidyas and Hakims to try their drugs on leprosy?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** All Ayurvedic research is being done in the Jamnagar Institute.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether it is a fact that indigenous medicines have proved more effective for leprosy than foreign medicines?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is covered by the last answer. This is being taken up at Jamnagar.