

T.B. PATIENTS IN INDIA

973. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of persons suffering from tuberculosis in India at present;

(b) whether the incidence of this disease is on the increase since 1952;

(c) if so, the causes thereof, and

(d) the names of the regions in which the incidence of tuberculosis is the highest?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) About 2.5 million

(b) Reliable statistics and precise figures relating to Tuberculosis mortality and morbidity are not available. But judging from reports, it can be presumed that the incidence of Tuberculosis in India, is on the increase.

(c). The following are some of the main causes of increased incidence:—

- (1) Low standards of living.
- (2) Poor and inadequate housing conditions.
- (3) Overcrowding, especially in urban areas, aggravated by post-partition conditions.
- (4) An increasing tendency on the part of the rural population to move into urban areas which are already overcrowded.

(5) Unhygienic condition and ignorance of the laws of hygiene which are not only favourable for the spread of Tuberculosis but also retard the effective and full application of Tuberculosis Control measures.

(d) The results of Tuberculin testing in connection with the B.C.G. vaccination campaign in the country have clearly indicated that Tuberculosis infection is very widespread and is more or less uniformly spread over the whole country. Congested and industrial areas are naturally more vulnerable.

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PURCHASE OF COAL

974. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the Railways for buying coal for their own consumption; and

(b) the names of the collieries which are preferred for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Based on the estimated requirements of the Railways, a programme for the supply of coal for Loco use is drawn up by the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) and Chief Mining Engineer, in consultation with the Railways, usually for a period of six months. In drawing up the programme Railway (now State) Collieries are first covered to the extent of their estimated output and the balance of the requirements of the Railways are allocated to market collieries mining upto Grade II coal with a gross monthly output of 1000 tons or above. No particular preference is shown in drawing up the basic programme and all collieries which satisfy the conditions for participating in the Loco Coal Programme are accepted to the extent they are entitled to under the scheme.

INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

975. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Punnoose:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total expenses incurred on the Services and the Integration Committees by the Indian Airlines Corporation?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Services Committee=Rs. 28,774/11/-. Integration Committee=Nil.