

tion of roads and bridges in the Punjab Hills during the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount that has been asked by Punjab Government to improve the communications in the Punjab Hills; and

(c) the amount that has been allocated consequent on request of Punjab Government?

The Minister for Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV. annexure No. 68].

Passports for Sarvodaya Workers

3501. Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that two Sarvodaya workers, Shri E. P. Menon and Shri Satish Kumar have left on the 1st June, 1962 from Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat on world tour to represent their protest against Nuclear Tests;

(b) whether it is a fact that though they applied for passports for all the countries through which they are to pass on *padayatra* they have not been given the same;

(c) whether they are determined to go with or without passports to other foreign countries and whether they have written to Government to that effect;

(d) the reasons for the delay; and

(e) whether Government are taking necessary steps in this matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. They have already been granted necessary passport facilities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The applicants had originally submitted their applications to the Regional Passport Officer, Madras, through the District authorities, However, since the applications were incomplete in some details, they had to be sent back to the applicants. Meanwhile, the persons concerned had travelled to Delhi. They then approached the Chief Passport Officer, New Delhi, on 25th May, 1962. Immediately thereafter, in consultation with the Regional Passport Officer, Madras, from whom relevant papers were called for, passport facilities were granted on the 5th June, 1962.

(e) Does not arise.

12.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) OUTBREAK OF EPIDEMIC OF PARALYSIS IN MALDA DISTRICT

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): Under Rule 197, I call the attention of the Minister of Health to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported outbreak of paralysis in epidemic form in Malda district of West Bengal".

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): An unknown disease crippling the patients by paralytic action of lower limbs has been prevalent in certain areas of the District of Malda in West Bengal. The disease was first reported on 4th April, 1962. The total number of attacks so far reported is 435. No deaths have occurred so far. The symptoms are pain in the leg followed by paralysis. There is no fever.

40 per cent. of the cases returned to work. Others are under treatment. The State Health authorities are of the

[Dr. Sushila Nayar]

view that the disease is not due to viral or bacterial infection. Evidence so far is in favour of a chemical poison or a toxin being responsible for the disease. The possibility of contamination of mustard oil and other food stuffs by some chemical during storage cannot be ruled out.

Preventive measures on general lines have been organised by the State Government. Typical cases are being admitted in research institutions in Calcutta for investigation and treatment. The cause of the disease is under investigation by specialists. One after another three specialist teams from the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta and the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, have visited the area for field investigations. The State Government have mobilised additional itinerant medical units for the benefit of the people of the locality. Organised treatment as may be recommended by the specialist investigators will be arranged by the State Government as soon as such recommendation is available. Animal experiments done so far on mice fed on mustard oil used by affected persons have shown that hind legs get paralysed. Detailed analysis of mustard oil and other commodities and also animal experiments are in progress. The School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health are fully collaborating with the State authorities in investigating the causes of the disease.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Have the Government satisfied themselves whether this outbreak of paralysis was caused by the use of mustard oil mixed up with some spurious ingredients and, if so, may I know what action is being taken against the persons responsible for this?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: It seems that the mustard oil was purchased from a weekly *hat* and all those affected were found to have eaten food fried in this particular sample of mustard oil. Telegraphically arrangements were made,

so that the remaining oil stocks with the dealers who supplied this oil was frozen. Further investigations are proceeding. When we know what is the exact ingredient in the oil responsible for the paralysis, the question of taking action against those responsible will arise.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Has the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health reported that they feel that it is some extraneous substance mixed with the mustard oil which has caused this?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I have already submitted that the fact that this disease has occurred only in adults and the breast-fed babies are the only ones left out, proves that it is something eaten by them which has caused this condition. The sample of suspected oil was fed to animals and it has resulted in paralysis in 48—72 hrs. So, the oil has been incriminated, but what exactly is the adulterant or the toxin in the oil is being investigated. It may be that something has been added accidentally to the oil during storage or in the process of collection of the mustard seeds or there may be some deliberate adulteration, we do not know. When the investigations are complete and we know the exact situation, further action will be taken.

Shri Daji (Indore): Is the Government aware that this adulteration has been caused in storage of the substances with insecticides and besides mustard oil, other foodstuffs like wheat flour, rice, etc. were also stored together with insecticides and if so, steps should be taken to see that these adulterated foodstuffs are not used, because otherwise there will be further calamity?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The hon. Member is probably referring to the folidol incident that took place the year before.

Shri Daji: I am referring to this matter.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: At present, we have absolutely no report and no information that there was adulteration of rice and other foodstuffs, as the hon. Member has stated.

(ii) WATER SCARCITY AT DELHI STATION AND FERROZESHAH KOTLA, DELHI

श्री बागड़ी (हिंसा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम १९७ के अन्तर्गत स्वास्थ्य मंत्री का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें :—

“दिल्ली स्टेशन तथा कोटला फ़िरोज़-शाह में पानी की सख्त किल्लत” ।

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The railway departments in Delhi have been drawing filtered water supply from the Corporation.....

श्री बागड़ी : स्पीकर साहब,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं कि हिन्दी में जवाब दिया जाये ।

डा० सुशीला नायर : श्रीमन्, रेलवे अधिकारीगण पुरानी दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन के लिए पिछले कुछ सालों से दिल्ली कांपॉरेशन के मेन नलों में से पानी ले रहे हैं उन के पास एक बड़ा छः इंच डायमीटर का वाटर कनक्शन है और कई छोटे छोटे कनक्शन भी हैं । ६ जुन, १९६२ को कांपॉरेशन को यह शिकायत हुई कि उन नलों में पानी का प्रेशर कम है । वाटर इमरजेंसी स्टाफ़ ने उसी वक्त जा कर इस को दुरुस्त कर दिया और उस के बाद कोई कठिनाई नहीं रही ।

दूसरा सवाल विक्रमनगर कालोनी का है, जो रीहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्ट्री की एक कालोनी है और फ़िरोज़शाह कोटला ग्राउंड्स के नजदीक स्थित है वहां पर २५०० लोग रहते हैं और मिनिस्ट्री ने वहां पर कोई छः पब्लिक हाइड्रैन्ट्स लगाये हुए हैं । ये हाइड्रैन्ट्स

एक दो इंच की मेन से लिये गये हैं वह मेन, जो कि वहां पानी लाती है, झंडेवाला रेजरघायर डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के बिल्कुल आखिरी सिरे पर, टेल एन्ड पर, है और इस लिए वहां का प्रेशर कुछ कम हो जाता है । मिनिस्ट्री आग्र रीहैबिलिटेशन ने वहां पर सिर्फ़ अस्थायी रूप से पानी का इन्तज़ाम किया था, क्योंकि उन का इरादा वहां पर बैठे हुए कुटुम्बों को आखिर में किसी और जगह हटा देने का था । उन्होंने वहां पर पानी का कोई पक्का इन्तज़ाम नहीं किया हुआ है ।

श्री बागड़ी : मैं अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली के जिन इलाकों में पानी की किल्लत है, वह सिर्फ़ आज नहीं, बल्कि हर साल होती है । उस बिना पर राजकुमारी अमृतकोर के जमाने में गन्दा पानी देने की वजह से हज़ारों आदमी मौत के घाट उतर गये थे । क्या मिनिस्टर साहब यह बता सकेंगे कि चूंकि दिल्ली स देश का सदर-मुकाम है, इस लिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के सामने यहां की पानी की समस्या को मुस्तकिल तौर पर हल करने के लिए कोई स्कीम है ? इस के अलावा पानी की आरज़ी किल्लत को दूर करने के लिए क्या यह तजवीज़ उन के जेरे-गौर है कि राष्ट्रपति और मिनिस्टरों का पानी भी कुछ कम किया जाये ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य ने राजकुमारी अमृतकोर के मंत्री पद के काल में जो हज़ारों लोगों के बीमार होने का जिक्र किया है, वह तो सही नहीं है । हज़ारों आदमियों का तो कोई सवाल नहीं था ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : उन्होंने तो हज़ारों आदमियों के मरने की बात कही है ।

डा० सुशीला नायर : वह सही नहीं, जहां तक पानी की किल्लत का सवाल है, इस सदन में कई बार सवालों के जवाब में मैं ने अर्ज़ किया है कि इस बारे में क्या क्या प्रबन्ध किये जा रहे हैं, ताकि पानी की किल्लत