

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): That is not the question today.

Mr. Speaker: I shall dispose of the adjournment motion of the day. The hon. Prime Minister says that he has no information, and that he will gather the information and place it before the House on Monday. Will that be possible? I am talking about the present adjournment motion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If I may say so, the only information that we are likely to get is about his present state of physical health.

Mr. Speaker: I am not talking of Mr. Bhattacharji. I am talking of the entry of Pakistani troops in Indian territory.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, I shall; but, as far as I can see,—I have read all these five accounts in the newspapers—in spite of the headlines, if you read the accounts, they show that some rather irresponsible firing took place on both sides, and nobody was hit. This kind of thing is so frequently happening. I do not know what more information I could give. If I have any more information, I shall naturally place it before the House.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statement of the hon. Prime Minister, I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion. Of course, it is unfortunate that broad headlines and streamer headlines should be given to such matters and the time of the House should also be taken away in this manner. Of course, such incidents are occurring from time to time. Anyhow, the Prime Minister will get some information. I am not allowing this adjournment motion. The calling-attention-notice will be called on such day as when the hon. Prime Minister will be present here and be able to get some information and place it on the Table of the House if possible.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I shall certainly do that. I would only beg

to be excused, because early next week, I shall be out of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: For the whole of the week?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker: That is so even with regard to the Bhattacharji incident?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As soon as information comes, whether I am here or not, that will be placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker: The adjournment motion is disallowed. Consent is not given. The calling-attention-notice will be called on Wednesday.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: What about the Bhattacharji incident?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: On this, any information that we receive will be placed before the House on Monday, whether I am here or not.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the Bhattacharji incident is concerned, I do not know what Government propose to do. If they get information even on Monday, they will place it before the House or inform the House of it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If there is any information.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever information is available may be placed before the House. If there is any information, it will be communicated to this House on Monday. If not, it will stand over to some other day.

12.13 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED INCIDENCE OF POLIO IN
EPIDEMIC FORM IN SOME DISTRICTS
OF ANDHRA PRADESH.**

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Rajampet): Under rule 197, I beg to 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 incidence of polio in an epidemic form in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Nellore of Andhra Pradesh and the steps taken to prevent the infection."

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): A report intimating a mild outbreak of poliomyelitis in the Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh was received by the Government of India from the State Director of Public Health on the 16th March, 1961. It was stated in that report that there were 26 cases of poliomyelitis in the Vijayawada Municipality, 12 in the Masaulipatam Municipality and 86 cases in 20 villages in the Krishna district. The recovery rate was reported to be fairly high and the mortality rate low. As the type of virus infection was not known, the Director of Public Health, Andhra Pradesh, requested the Indian Council of Medical Research to send an investigation team immediately to visit the infected areas in the Krishna and Guntur districts and find out the actual type of virus responsible for the infection, and to advise the State public health authorities in regard to the line of control measures to be taken for meeting the situation.

From October 1960 till the 25th March, 1961, 270 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported in Andhra Pradesh out of which there have been 7 deaths. The district-wise figures of the incidence of the disease are reported to be as follows:

Krishna—230 cases, 7 deaths
Guntur—25 cases
West Godavari—6 cases
Khammam—5 cases
Nellore—3 cases
Nizamabad—1 case.

As poliomyelitis was not a notifiable disease, the local medical practitioners

were not reporting the cases which came to them for treatment. The real incidence of the disease might, therefore, be higher than that reported.

The age group affected is mostly below five years. 250 c.c. of Salk Vaccine available in Hyderabad has been sent to the affected localities for giving prophylactic inoculations to the contacts. It may be stated, however, that it takes a considerable time for immunity to develop amongst those who are given prophylactic inoculation and therefore, the results of this measure may not be noticeable immediately.

One of the Deputy Directors General of Health Services visited Vijayawada and Guntur district and discussed the situation with the local, municipal and district health officials, the Principal of the Medical College, Guntur, and later with the Directors of Public Health and Medical Services, Andhra Pradesh. The local bodies have been advised to pay special attention to the improvement of sanitary conditions, such as the disposal of refuse and night-soil and anti-fly measures and chlorination of water supply, etc. Steps have been taken to intensify the Health Education Programme in relation to this disease by way of lectures, group discussions, distribution of literature and the special health education staff of the Directorate of Public Health, Andhra Pradesh, is taking up this programme intensively in the affected districts. A special symposium was arranged for the medical profession to familiarise them with the latest developments in relation to treatment and prophylactic measures with regard to poliomyelitis. Steps have also been taken by the State health authorities for the isolation in bed of all children with fever, pending diagnosis, and for prolonged care of paralysed cases to provide maximum recovery through physiotherapy. Action has also been taken by the State Government to make the disease compulsorily notifiable.

[Shri Karmarkar]

The incidence of the disease is now reported to be on the decline. However, measures to control it effectively are being continued.

Two teams, one of the Indian Council of Medical Research from the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, and the other from the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor are carrying out investigations to establish the nature of the virus and other factors responsible for the present outbreak of poliomyelitis in Andhra Pradesh. The results of these investigations are awaited. Unless the nature of the virus is exactly established, the use of the available poliomyelitis vaccine may be of little or no avail. However, steps are being taken for the procurement from abroad of a supply of vaccine so that there is no delay in resorting to this measure on a scale considered justified. The experts are of the opinion that there is no immediate indication for resorting to mass immunization against the disease.

I have just received information that arrangements are being made for securing 100,000 doses of the vaccine concerned from the USSR immediately.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): The hon. Minister has said that steps are not to be taken for immunisation on a mass scale, but I find that already the disease is spreading from district to district. Already, there was some mention by the Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh that he was expecting some doses of the anti-polio vaccine from the USSR and USA. May I know whether that has arrived?

Shri Karmarkar: That is what I have just stated to the House. I have just stated that arrangements are being made for the immediate supply of 100,000 doses of the required vaccine from the USSR.

Mr. Speaker: Has it arrived? That is what the hon. Member wants to know.

Shri Karmarkar: It has not yet arrived.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when it is likely to arrive?

Shri Rami Reddy (Cuddapah): May I know whether it is a fact that there are no facilities for storing this vaccine in the district headquarters, and if so, what steps are being taken in this matter?

Shri Karmarkar: Steps are also being taken to store it properly at a certain temperature.

Shri Rami Reddy: Is it a fact that there are no facilities?

Shri Karmarkar: The facilities are not adequate. That is a fact. But, facilities are being created. There is nothing difficult about it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When is this vaccine expected from the USSR?

Shri Karmarkar: Arrangements are being made. I have no idea when it will arrive here. It will take some time to manufacture the vaccine, if they have not got in stock already. But, immediate arrangements are being made. As I said before, the incidence of polio is on the decrease.

There is another factor which I wish the House to appreciate about this polio. Unless the virus is isolated, even vaccine of any kind will not do. It has to be carefully weighed and steps for that are being immediately taken. In the meantime, the incidence itself is going down, and perhaps it may not be necessary to immunise the population.

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a statement made by an expert from Bombay in a recent seminar of the doctors and experts held at Vijayawada that there is no recognised treatment for polio.

Shri Karmarkar: That is not a fact.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the fact that there is no treatment, may

I know what the Ministry of Health is doing with regard to this by way of research and investigation to find out the proper remedy? That is what I want to know.

Shri Karmarkar: It is a long-term measure. There is the Virus Research Institute in Poona. It is a fact that apart from symptomatic treatment of those who may be suffering, there is no specific treatment for the disease. Therefore, the protective measures are either immunisation by vaccination or better cleanliness to avoid spread of the disease. Both are being taken.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni): The hon. Minister just mentioned about rural areas. May I know whether any arrangement has been made to supply this vaccine in the rural areas to the primary health centres through mobile vans?

Shri Karmarkar: I am quite sure that the Andhra Pradesh Government will take all necessary steps even in the rural areas.

12.21 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES, PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various Sessions of Second Lok Sabha:

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| (i) First Statement | Thirteenth Session, 1961. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 90) |
| (ii) Supplementary Statement No. III | Twelfth Session, 1960 (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 91) |
| (iii) Supplementary Statement No. VII | Eleventh Session, 1960. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 92) |
| (iv) Supplementary Statement No. XII | Tenth Session, 1960. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 93) |

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| (v) Supplementary Statement No. XVII | Eighth Session, 1959 (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 94) |
| (vi) Supplementary Statement No. XXIII | Seventh Session, 1959 (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 95) |
| (vii) Supplementary Statement No. XXI | Sixth Session, 1958. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 96) |
| (viii) Supplementary Statement No. XXV. | Fifth Session, 1958. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 97) |

12.21 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 10th April will consist of—

- (1) Further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and
- (2) Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministries of Defence, Community Development and Co-operation, Steel, Mines and Fuel, Food and Agriculture and Finance.

12.21½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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NOTIFICATION UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. H(T)14-925/58 published in Himachal Pradesh Gazette, dated the 3rd December 1960, making certain amendments to the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, as applied to Himachal Pradesh, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2818/61].