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LOK SABHA

Friday, 6th September, 1957.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri T. R. Neswi—Darwar South.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Report of the Committee on Delhi Sewage Tank Accident

*1527. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Committee appointed to enquire in the Sewage Tank accident that took place in Delhi on the 25th May, 1957 was submitted by the Chief Commissioner with his comments on 11th July, 1957 after consulting the Joint Water and Sewage Board;

(b) whether three officers of the Board have been charge-sheeted by the Board; and

(c) when a set of comprehensive rules and regulations for the protection of the lives of employees working in sewers manholes etc. will be formulated so as to prevent recurrence of such casualties in future and placed on the Table?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Chief Commissioner forwarded the Report with his comments on the 11th July, 1957. As the views of the Joint Water and Sewage Board had not been obtained, he was requested to do so. The Board considered it at their meeting held on

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the 19th July, 1957. A copy of the Report is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Regulations in question are being formulated and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Shri Yajnik: May I know if at least one of the three officers who were charge-sheeted was specially appointed by the Water and Sewage Board to be in special charge of the sewage operations especially in view of what the Modak Committee had reported on the contamination of water last year?

Shri Karmarkar: I understand that the work was entrusted to a firm of contractors, the construction of the tank. The Engineer referred to was asked to supervise the operations in general and ultimately when the contractors had finished the job, before taking over, it had to be certified and inspected properly. That was why the Engineer was there.

Shri Yajnik: May I know why this officer who was entrusted by the Water and Sewage Board and by Government to be in special charge of the sewage operations was not present at the time when this incident took place and why did he not help the contractors and supervise their operations when they were carrying out these dangerous operations.

Shri Karmarkar: My hon. friend misunderstands the position a little. I thought I was adequate in my explanation. The whole thing is that this work of erecting this tank was entrusted to a firm of contractors that I had mentioned. It was wholly their job to do and if they satisfactorily did it, it was for the Water and Sewage Board and their representative, may be the Engineer or whosoever, to take it over