

possible, and this will be done on an instalment basis.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Has it been brought to his notice that some of the public sector units like HAL, Kanpur, have asked for exemption from the scheme on the ground that their present medical arrangements are better, and may I know whether exemption will be granted to them if they so desire.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** This is a matter that should be decided on the merits of each case. There cannot be any general principle. Though in certain cases the medical benefits may be better, this scheme not only covers medical benefits but also sickness benefits, insurance, and in case of death, the family is also covered. If a person dies, his wife will be provided for until she gets married or dies. or the children are also provided with all these benefits until they become major. Therefore, all these benefits can be provided under the scheme concerned by the public sector. Otherwise, taking a balanced-view in this matter, if the public sector provides more advantageous scheme for the benefits of the workers, naturally on such cases a decision will be taken on merits.

**श्री राम नारायण शर्मा :** ग्रहण महोदय, इस प्रश्न के द्वारा यह जानने की कोशिश की गई है कि अधिक से अधिक लोगों को कैसे कवर किया जाये लेकिन क्या सरकार की जानकारी में यह बात है कि जितने लोगों के ऊपर यह ई एस आई स्कीम लागू है और जहाँ जहाँ डिस्पेंसरीज हैं उनमें बहुत सी जगह डाक्टर नहीं हैं, दवाओं का प्रबन्ध नहीं है और मडिकल अटेडेन्ट नहीं है जिसके कारण ग्रामी जो ग्रामरेडी कवर्ड है वे सफर कर रहे हैं तो क्या सरकार इस स्कीम को एक्स्टेंड करने के पहले इस बात की जांच करेगी और जांच करके इस सम्बन्ध में उचित कार्यवाही करेगी ?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** As I submitted, now 56 lakh workers belonging to the various industrial organizations are covered. Regarding the specific question put by my good friend Mr. Sharma, I may submit that as far as the posting of doctors and the administration of the hospitals are concerned, it is completely in the hands of the State Governments. We have impressed upon them and they are also taking a keen interest in this matter, and I hope sufficient progress will be made.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** My question also relates to the part of the question asked by Mr. Sharma. They are spreading the net which will be covered under ESI. My question not only relates to medical facilities but also the cash benefit for which the workers are being harassed in almost all the places. I want to know whether any scheme has been drawn up so that the insured persons may get cash benefit when it is due to them without going through any harassment.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** This is a question of expression of opinion. If the hon. Member has got any specific case, we can look into it.

#### Pollution of Ganga Waters in West Bengal

\*318. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of pollution of Ganga waters is increasing every year in West Bengal;

(b) whether the pollution has become a health hazard;

(c) the causes for this rapid increase in the percentage of pollution; and

(d) the steps taken to minimise it?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH):** (a) to (c). No such report has been received by the West Bengal Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Board. However, it is well known that water pollution does constitute a major health hazard.

(d) Under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 a State Board for the prevention and control of water pollution has been set up in West Bengal from 20-9-1974. The Board is required *inter alia*, to take measures to counteract water pollution of streams in West Bengal.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Water pollution is posing a serious problem. We have heard from the answer of the hon Minister that no report has yet been received. It has been expressed in the papers so widely in this background, may I know from the hon Minister if any guidelines have been laid down for coordinating the working of the State Board with the Central Government to know what is the position or for what the State Boards are formed or the whole matter is left to the States?

**DR KARAN SINGH:** Under the Act, there is a Central Board that is set up and also there are State Boards. It is one of the duties of the Central Board to advise the State Board upon how they should proceed. In addition to that, I may inform the hon. Member that two special reports on water pollution in India from the World Health Organisation experts were received both in 1975. Therefore, the Central Government is very actively pursuing the matter and is in close touch with the State Government.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a survey report of the West Bengal, which has been done particularly for West Bengal, which is creating a very serious constraint on water pollution. May I know if you are ask-

ing the industries all over the country to put cleaners so that pollution in the rivers may be reduced to a minimum.

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** The hon. Member has drawn attention to a very grave matter and that is increasing pollution of the entire water system in this country. The whole Ganga river system almost from Rihikesh downwards is getting increasingly polluted as a result of a number of industries that are coming up on the Ganga itself and the tributaries and also as a result of untreated sewage. The Ganga water for thousands of years has been a symbol of purity, but, unfortunately, the modern industrial development is polluting it. Therefore, the Government is very much concerned about this matter. The Parliament passed this Act for this very purpose. We are indeed advising all industries everywhere in the country that they should include the latest anti-pollution technology in any new plant that they set up.

**श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र हात्वर :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा, इस समय जो गंगा का पानी दूषित हो रहा है, इस को ठीक करने के लिए आप क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं? आप ने अभी कहा है कि हजारों वर्षों से गंगा का पानी पवित्र था, लेकिन इन कारखानों की वजह से दूषित हो रहा है—मैं जानना चाहता कि पवित्रता की परसेन्टेज कितनी कम हुई तथा पवित्रता को बढ़ाने के लिए आप क्या कोशिश कर रहे हैं?

**डा० कर्ण सिंह :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ व्यक्ति और दूषित पानी को तोलना बहुत कठिन है। इस में कोई शक नहीं कि जहाँ पर फैक्ट्रीज बहुत नजदीक हैं, वहाँ पानी अधिक दूषित हो जाता है, लेकिन थोड़ी देर बहने के बाद साफ हो जाता है। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में दो बातें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं—एक तो यह कि

स्विचिंग ट्रीट करना बहुत आवश्यक है।  
बाराबन्सी, हरिद्वार, कानपुर जैसे बड़े नगरों...

अध्यक्ष श्रीवर्मा : यह प्रश्न वेस्ट बंगाल का है, इस विद् केन्द्र का क्या सीमा है।

श्री एन० एन० बनर्जी : कानपुर में पोल्यूशन नहीं होता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कानपुर की बात अभी नहीं चल रही है।

डा० कर्ण सिंह : वेस्ट बंगाल में भी, अध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत सी फैक्टरीज हैं। उन से यह कहा गया है कि आप अपने यहां जो नई फैक्ट्रीज लगायें उन में ट्रीटमेंट टैकनालाजी लगायें। जो फैक्ट्रीज पहले से लगी हुई हैं उन में भी कुछ ऐसे यंत्र लगाये ताकि जो पानी दूषित हो रहा है, उस में कमी आये।

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: The hon. Minister has stated a general proposition. We are quite aware that the Government is seized of the problem in a general way. But the fact is that very recently, only early this month, one of the expert bodies appointed by the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority and their allied organisations to examine the question of the pollution of the Ganga water in the industrial area of Calcutta, has expressed the opinion that very soon, in spite of the normal treatment that is given by the water supply agencies of the municipalities, the Ganga water in the industrial area of Calcutta downstream will become completely polluted and inpotable. May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to that report and whether it will be possible for the Central Board or the Central Government to take some measures or steps at least to bring it to the notice of the appropriate authorities so that remedial action could be taken?

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DR. KARAN SINGH: As I mentioned, two special reports of last year brought out by the World Health Organisation are with me. I am aware that the C.M.D.A. is conducting a survey on this problem. But the report has not yet, as far as I know, come to us. I may clarify that under the Act also, the primary responsibility for this rests on the State Board. It is they who have to take the necessary action to ensure that pollution does not take place. The Government of India also or the Central Board is involved. It is really a cooperative endeavour. May I mention that just two days ago, a file came to me and I have released a very senior officer who was the Director of the All-India Institute of Hygiene, Dr. Banerjee, to head the West Bengal State Board. I must admit, looking through these papers that I am left with the impression that there is scope for improvement in the functioning both of the Central Board and the State Boards. I will admit that and I agree that this is a matter which should receive much closer attention than it has received so far.

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गंगा वाटर पोल्यूशन के सम्बन्ध में समय समय पर कई कमेटियां बनी थी और उन्होंने अपने प्रतिवेदन भी दिये थे। गंगा का पानी, यदि इलाहाबाद में पाल्यूट होता है तो उसका असर बिहार में अधिक पड़ता है, बिहार में पाल्यूशन होता है तो उस का बंगाल तक जाना निश्चित है। इसी तरह बरौनी में गंगा वाटर पाल्यूशन के सम्बन्ध में एम्बेयरी हुई थी, तथा उस का प्रतिवेदन भी आया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—उस पर गवर्नमेंट ने क्या स्टेप उठाये और पाल्यूशन रोकने के लिए क्या कार्यवाहियां कीं ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : यह प्रश्न वेस्ट बंगाल के सम्बन्ध में था, बरौनी के सम्बन्ध में।

मैं इस समय सूचना नहीं दे पाऊंगा। लेकिन इस

समय एक बात कह देना चाहता हूँ—एक्ट के पास होने के 6 महीने के अन्दर बिहार को बोर्ड बनाना था, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से वह बोर्ड अभी तक नहीं बनाया गया है। आज यह स्थिति है कि आप के राज्य में कोई बोर्ड नहीं है और चूँकि इस एक्ट में लिखा गया था कि 6 महीने के अन्दर-अन्दर बोर्ड बनाया जायेगा, वह समय तो बीत गया, अब तो एक्ट की ही बदलना होगा—यह बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है।

### Micro-Wave Station of Gorakhpur

\*319. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the installation of micro-wave station at Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gorakhpur Microwave Station will be a dropping station on Lucknow-Gorakhpur—Patna Section of Calcutta—Lucknow wideband micro-wave link. Installation work is in advanced stages and this section is likely to be put into service during 1976.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ—माइक्रोवेव स्टेशन का काम कब से शुरू हुआ और इस के कब तक पूरा होने की उम्मीद है, यह स्टेशन कब से काम करने लगेगे।

डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा : इस काम को शुरू किये चार साल हो चुके हैं। यह आशा

की जाती है कि इस सैक्शन पर दिसम्बर, 1976 तक काम पूरा हो जायगा।

### New Post Offices in Eastern and North Eastern Region

\*320. SHRI TUNA ORAON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in Eastern and North Eastern Region States, State-wise, in 1975; and

(b) how does it compare with those in other regions, so far as population and area are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The details are as follows:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| West Bengal . . . | 42  |
| Bihar . . . . .   | 11  |
| Orissa . . . . .  | 106 |
| Assam . . . . .   | 4   |
| Mizoram . . . . . | 3   |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Aruachal Manipur | } . . . . . A number of proposals are under consideration. No P.O. could be opened during 1975 due to financial stringency. |
| Meghalaya        |   |
| Nagaland         |   |
| Tripur           |   |

(b) In the Eastern and North Eastern Region States, there is one post office for 5553 persons and 23.21 sq. kms. against the All India average of one post office for 4662 persons and 27.26 sq. kms.

श्री कमला मिश्र 'मधुकर' : अध्यक्ष जी, हमारे देश का पूर्वी और उत्तरी इलाका कम्यूनिकेशन के मामले में बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ है। हम लोगों की जानकारी है कि इस समय नये पोस्ट आफिस खोलने पर ब्लैकट-बन लगा हुआ है, इस को दृष्टि में रखते हुए, जैसा आप ने अभी कहा है कि