

Canteen Employees in Defence Establishments

*1223. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canteen employees working under the Defence Establishments are not treated at par with Canteen Stores Department (India) employees, if so, the reasons for the same ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve their wages and working conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The role of the canteens under the Factories Act in different Defence Establishments in different from that of the Canteen Stores Department and so are the categories of employees under these organisations. The question of treating the employees of canteens on par with the employees of the Canteen Stores Department (India) does not, therefore, arise. However, the scales of pay of employees in different Defence canteens are generally higher than the scale of pay fixed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for corresponding categories.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that at the Industrial Council Meeting which was presided over by the Director-General of Ordnance Factories, it was unanimously resolved to treat the canteen employees as government employees and give them other benefits also, and, if so, the reason for not implementing that decision, which has taken twice.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, at present, I am not aware what decision was taken there, but I have indicated in my main reply the present situations, at present, canteen employees are not being treated as Government employees. They are just being treated as the canteen employees. That is the information I have. I would like to look into the point that the hon. Member has raised.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Since the industrial council meetings were presided

over by his predecessor, Shri L. N. Mishra, and Shri Thomas, may I know from the hon. Minister whether at the coming industrial council meeting to be presided over by Shri Shukla, he will consider this matter ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sure;.

Spread of Filaria

*1225. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Filaria is spreading fast in the country with its victims running into millions in spite of 16 years of national efforts to control filaria ;

(b) the reasons therefore and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to control this disease effectively ; and

(c) the programme undertaken along with its financial outlay so far and the proposed programme and its financial outlay ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) There is no evidence to indicate that filarial disease is spreading fast in the country. Surveys have been conducted by the State Governments and the Central Government to estimate the extent of population exposed to the risk of filarial infection and the extent of incidence of filarial disease. These show that at present the population at risk is 136 million of which about 8 million experience the disease from early to advanced stages.

(b) and (c). Filarial infection is caused by the culex mosquitoes which are usually prevalent in areas with poor environmental sanitation. Government started the National Filaria Central Programme in 1955 with a view to :-

- (i) determining extent of prevalence of filarial infection and disease ;
- (ii) initiating pilot studies in the methodology of control of filariasis ;