

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday 12th August, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Infective Hepatitis

*780 Shri D C Sharma. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any cases of infective hepatitis have been reported during the months of May, June and July, 1957 in Delhi or New Delhi?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar) Nineteen cases of infective hepatitis were reported in Delhi and New Delhi during the months of May, June and July, 1957

Shri D C Sharma. May I know what long-term arrangements have been made by the Ministry for the prevention of the re-occurrence of this disease?

Shri Karmarkar. We are hoping that this will always remain a short-term problem. We are not anticipating a long-term problem at all.

Shri D C. Sharma May I know the proportion of cases in Delhi and New Delhi?

Shri Karmarkar. In Delhi, as against 15 cases in January, 1957, out of which there were three deaths, in July, 1957, there were no fresh cases but two deaths. In New Delhi, as against 14 cases in January, there were only 3 in July, and there was one death in July.

Shri Easwara Iyer. May I know whether the Minister is aware that there are effective Ayurvedic remedies for infective hepatitis?

Mr Speaker. That was brought to the notice of the House some time ago. All remedies will be tried.

Shri Karmarkar. Yes, there is an Ayurvedic method of dealing with infective hepatitis, just as there is an allopathic way.

Mr Speaker. Whenever any hon Member gets a particular remedy from a sadhu or a saint or any other person, he may immediately inform the hon Minister, instead of questioning the knowledge of the Minister.

Dr. P Subbarayan. Considering the number of deaths and the number of cases that have occurred, will Government not take any steps to see that some remedy is found for preventing such deaths?

Shri Karmarkar. This disease, as my hon friend might be knowing, spreads through contamination of articles of food and drink, principally. Filtered water supply in urban areas is under supervision. Regular disinfection of wells in rural and semi-urban areas is being done. Cut fruits and cooked food exposed to dust and flies are destroyed by the Health Departments of the local bodies. These are the measures we are taking.

Khandwa-Hingoli Rail Link

*781 Shri T B Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the total amount spent upto the end of March, 1957 on Khandwa-Hingoli rail link,