

India's Proposals before World Health Assembly

The Government of India proposed to the World Health Assembly that target dates be fixed for starting wide-based co-ordinated programmes of malaria control leading to world-wide eradication of the disease.

The proposal was to be taken up by the Health Assembly at its ninth annual session held in the Palace of Nations, Geneva. Delegates of WHO's 80-odd Member countries attending the conference had before them a progress report on the work done since their historic decision last year to abandon piecemeal attempts to control malaria in favour of a concerted effort on all continents to wipe out the infection before the carrier-mosquitoes become resistant to insecticides.

India's proposal points out that this country faces "a colossal problem" of malaria and will arrive only by stages at total eradication. While some areas have been freed from the infection, others remain highly malarious. The danger of re-infection from within the country or from abroad is very great in areas that have been cleared. For this reason India asks WHO for a "critical appraisal of the position of all countries" in South East Asia and other regions similarly situated, and for "fixing target dates for the start and completion of co-ordinated ultra-regional and inter-regional eradication programmes". This, in India's view, is "vitally important, as any tendency to hasty action may lead to irreparably disastrous results".

Another programme item proposed by India requests WHO to call together an Expert Committee on Heart Diseases, and "to initiate necessary action to push forward research and control measures on a world-wide basis".

India has also proposed that

Indian Delegation

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudliar, Vice Chancellor of the Madras University, led the delegation to the World Health Assembly.

The other delegates were Lt-Col. C.R. Lakshman, Director General of Health Services, Government of India; Lt.-Col. Jaswant Singh, Director, Malaria Institute, Delhi; Mr. K. V. Padmanabhan, Consul General, Geneva; Miss T. K. Adranvala, Chief Nursing Superintendent, Government of India.

minimum uniform qualifications be laid down for doctors on an international basis. This will involve such issues as minimum requirements for accommodation and equipment in medical colleges in relation to the number of admissions, teacher-student ratio and bed strength per student for clinical teaching.

Discussions on the control of leprosy will be based on the recommendation of the WHO Executive Board for more action in this field and a proposal of the Government of Burma calling for a Regional Conference in South East Asia on the subject.

Another mass infection, tuberculosis, will be discussed in a new light following the success of drugs like isoniazid which have made home treatment of tuberculosis patients possible and effective, and brought programmes of TB control within the reach of almost any health administration.

Other mass campaigns to be discussed include those against trachoma and yaws.

The subject for this year's Technical Discussion—which is of an informal character—will be "*Nurses: their education and their role in health programmes*".