

Shri Satish Chandra: I require notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that some amount of money has been allotted for hospital amenities. May I know whether any arrangements have been made for increasing the number of beds?

Shri Satish Chandra: Rs. 54,000 are to be spent on medical facilities. The major heads are: (1) construction of a maternity block in the Kharagpur hospital; (2) a dispensary and staff quarters in the traffic settlement; and (3) additions and alterations to the main dispensary.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that lepers infest the compound of the railway school at night at Kharagpur, and if so, is there any proposal for constructing a wall around that school for getting rid of the lepers?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Railway Ministry will be prepared to make enquiries into the matter.

ARREST OF FOOD MINISTRY OFFICIAL

*803. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri C. B. Swamy, an official of the Food Ministry, has been recently arrested for an alleged acceptance of illegal gratification; and

(b) whether any other arrests have also been made in this regard?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). Shri C. S. D. Swamy, who used to be an officer in the Food and Agriculture Ministry, has been arrested along with three other persons in connection with allegations of corrupt practices.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what was the case about?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: On a point of order, Sir. This case is *sub judice* and is it in order for the hon. Member to ask questions?

Mr. Speaker: Let him put his question first. After hearing what his question is, we shall see whether the point of order arises.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what was the case about?

Dr. Katju: Corrupt practices relating to supply of food.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the loss sustained by Government owing to these corrupt practices?

Dr. Katju: Several lakhs of rupees. The matter is under investigation.

Shri Damodara Menon: Who are the other persons arrested along with Mr. Swamy?

Dr. Katju: Another officer, Mr. Krishnaswami, plus the following two persons: Shri Ratilal Nanavati and Shri N. K. Sahani.

Shri Damodara Menon: Have the police completed their investigation?

Dr. Katju: Investigation is still proceeding.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the other two persons who were arrested, namely Mr. Ratilal and Mr. Sahani, belong to the same Ministry?

Dr. Katju: They are not officers, they are traders. Only one of the three persons is an officer, Mr. Krishnaswami.

"GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES (SUBSIDY).

*804. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided that the subsidy given by the State Governments to agriculturists for development projects in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign should not normally exceed one-fourth of the total expenditure to be incurred?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Government of India have decided that their own share in subsidies to farmers for minor irrigation works will be confined to a subsidy of 25 per cent. of the cost of the work. It is however open to the States to increase the rate of subsidy from their own resources.

(b) It is a case of making the fullest utilisation of the money available for the Grow More Food Campaign. A high subsidy leaves loopholes for mis-utilisation and encourages comparatively un-remunerative works. Financing such works through loans rather than subsidies therefore is likely to put available funds to the best possible use.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What was the amount of subsidies given to agriculturists for minor irrigation works before this decision was taken?

Shri Karmarkar: I could not give the volume. I would require notice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the percentage of the subsidy given by the State Governments to agriculturists which the Government of India bears?

Mr. Speaker: I think it bears 25 per cent.

Shri Karmarkar: Formerly it was 50 per cent., Sir. Now it has been reduced to 25 per cent. with a view to seeing that the money at its disposal is distributed in the best possible manner.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I want to know whether the 25 per cent. is given by the State Governments or whether the Government of India also shares some portion of it.

Shri Karmarkar: Our subsidy is 25 per cent. The subsidy given by the States is supposed to be at least 25 per cent. They can increase it if they like.

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know whether the Government has set up any machinery to look after the utilisation of the subsidies that are given to a large number of persons—to see that they are actually utilized for the purpose of cultivation and not for other purposes?

Shri Karmarkar: This is a matter principally for the State Governments. The State Governments incur the expenditure in this respect, and with a view to help the Grow More Food Campaign we meet the expenses to the extent of 25 per cent. Our machinery is normally through the States, and nothing separate.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इस सम्बन्ध में किन किन स्टेटों को कितना कितना रुपया दिया गया है और कहाँ कहाँ पर खर्चा किया गया है ? क्या इस बारे में स्टेटों की सरकारों ने कोई रिपोर्ट दी है ?

Shri Karmarkar: Every year we get reports about these things—how much we give them and how much is utilised.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : किन किन स्टेटों को कितना कितना रुपया दिया गया ?

Mr. Speaker: I think that is a matter of details.

PRODUCTION OF OILSEEDS

*808. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the final estimate of production of oilseeds during the year 1951-52 has been completed?

(b) If so, what are the figures of production for different states?

(c) Has the target fixed been reached?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, in the case of groundnuts, sesamum and castor seed only.

(b) A statement giving the required information in respect of groundnuts, sesamum and castor seed is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 35].

(c) Yearly targets of additional production for oilseeds have not so far been fixed.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know how the estimate compares with the estimate of the previous year?

Shri Karmarkar: It compares favourably. During the last three years there has been a progressive increase in the oilseeds production.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the percentage of the increase?

Shri Karmarkar: I have got the figures of acreage here. The increase in acreage has been 625,000 acres, 102,000 acres and 45,000 acres. And my previous answer requires a little modification. As compared to 1949-50 and 1950-51 there has been a small decrease in respect of groundnuts and sesamum. Regarding castor seed there is no information.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there has been any increase in yield per acre?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question, because the total production is a little less than in the previous year. Whether it was evenly spread out or whether there were abnormal causes I have no information.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Are Government aware that in certain places lands which have been used for the cultivation of food crops have been diverted for the cultivation of these commercial crops?

Shri Karmarkar: Slightly.