

Medical Stores Depots

*63. **Shri Gidwani** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior officer of the Ministry of Finance has been investigating into the working of the various Medical Stores Depots; and

(b) if so, whether the officer concerned has submitted any report.

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : (a) Yes.

(b) Part I of the report relating to the headquarters establishment in the Directorate General of Health Services, which deals with the Medical Stores Depots, has been received.

Shri Gidwani : When will this other part of the report be submitted, and what is the nature of the first part?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : The first part of the report made two main recommendations, that the sections of the Director-General of Health Services dealing with the medical stores depots should be reduced from three to two; and then certain suggestions regarding decentralisation of the work of the fixation of rates. Both these recommendations have been accepted and implemented.

Now, the officer is continuing his investigations with regard to the working of the medical stores depots. He has given some suggestions which again are being considered, and some of them are being implemented also. It is difficult to say when the final report will be available.

Shri V. P. Nayar : May I know whether this officer has made any enquiry into the case of out-dated surgical catguts having been accepted by the medical stores depots as supplied by a firm in Delhi to the tune of several lakhs of rupees?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : I am not aware of that.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether any more medical stores depots are being opened, and if so, in what places?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : No more are being opened. I think it is a question of perhaps having less than what we have today.

Foreign Food Gifts

*65. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total value of food gifts received from the various voluntary organisations of America during 1954-55 and 1955-56 (till September)?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) : The Government of India have no information about the value of the food gifts as these are received and distributed free amongst the needy.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : May I know whether it is a fact that these food articles are being distributed only through Christian missionaries and not through others, and if so, whether Government have considered the question of distribution through others also?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : These voluntary relief agencies in India receive gifts from American agencies. The gifts are distributed through Christian and other agencies. Whenever a Christian mission here receives gifts, they distribute them mostly among the Christians; but we insist that there should not be any discrimination in this regard, and it is left to the State Governments to ensure this, for they have to certify that these gifts were distributed without any discrimination. These missionaries are required to produce the certificates from the State Governments.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : Has it come to the notice of Government that certain other organisations want these food articles for distribution in their own areas where there has been a lot of suffering, but these voluntary agencies are not co-operating with them, and even these foreign agencies are not helpful to them? If so, what action has been taken by Government to see that such articles are distributed to other agencies also?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : There are two things in these gifts. First, there are gifts from Government to Government; whatever the American Government send to the Government of India is our responsibility, and we distribute it to the needy; and if any organisation makes a representation to us, we give the gifts to that organisation, and they distribute it.

Secondly, there are some gifts which are sent by the voluntary relief organisations in America to their own counterparts in India, such as some Christian missionaries and some churches. We have no control over them except that we act as clearing agents since the gifts are duty-free.]

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Arising out of the answer just given, are we to understand that it is the policy of Government to allow the independent organisations in America to send these gifts and insist on their distribution through the missionaries especially in tribal areas for motives other than relief?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : We have recognised some of the institutions as

America, and they have been approved by the American Government also. Whenever those institutions send gifts to the institutions in India, and the latter distribute them here, we insist that there should not be any discrimination.

Dr. Gangadhar Siva : In view of the answer given by the hon. Minister, may I know whether there was any requisition made from the Andhra State, and if so, through what source?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : These gifts do not refer to Government gifts; they are gifts sent by some voluntary organisations.

Mokameh Bridge

*66. **Shri Jhulan Sinha :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred Question No. 2662 on the 28th April, 1955 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the Mokameh Bridge; and

(b) whether it is keeping to the time-schedule?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Nearly 20 million c. ft. of standard size and under-sized pitching stone has been collected, earth work for the guide bank has started, and arrangements are on hand for starting in full swing the north approach bank, well sinking, etc. as soon as working conditions permit. Overall progress is 8%.

(b) Yes.

Shri Jhulan Sinha : If the work is progressing unhampered, when will this bridge be opened for traffic?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : We hope, by December, 1959.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Is it a fact that down from the unskilled earth-carrying men up to the top, every person has been imported from outside? Is it also a fact that the progress of work, which has been reported to be only 8 per cent is due to this reason?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I very respectfully beg to submit that as usual the hon. Member is wrong. The most important work in the construction of bridges is the collection of material. We are collecting the material, and the progress of the work is very satisfactory.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Assuming that I am wrong, would the hon. Minister give us the figure as to the percentage of the persons employed who are the wards and sons of those who have voluntarily surrendered their lands and orchards in this area?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alageean) : I do not know how many cases of voluntary surrender have been there. But I know this much that we have to pay very heavily as compensation for the lands that we have had to take over there.

कृषि गवेषणा

*६७. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या खाद्य और कृषि मंत्री ६ सितम्बर, १९५५ को दिये गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १६०१ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कृषि गवेषणा और कृषि शिक्षा संस्थाओं के सम्बन्ध में रिपोर्ट देने के लिये जो संयुक्त टीम नियुक्त की गई थी क्या उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट दे दी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उस रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखी जायेगी; और

(ग) उसमें की गई सिफारिशों और सुझावों पर क्या निर्णय किया गया है ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस्० बंसमूल) :

(क) जी, हां ।

(ख) यह रिपोर्ट अभी छप रही है । छपी हुई कापियां मिलते ही सभा के पुस्तकालय में रख दी जायेंगी ।

(ग) इस रिपोर्ट में की हुई सिफारिशों भारत सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस संयुक्त दल ने देश के किन किन भागों का दौरा किया और क्या यह सत्य है कि इस दल ने किसी भी ऐसे पर्वतीय स्थान में जा कर अध्ययन नहीं किया जहां इसके लिये जाना आवश्यक था ?

डा० पी० एस्० बंसमूल : जहां जहां इस कमेटी ने जाना आवश्यक समझा मैं समझता हूँ उन सभी जगहों पर यह कमेटी गई, खास तौर पर जो काम इसके सुपुर्द था यानी एग्जीक्यूटिव एज्युकेशन की क्या हालत है, रिसर्च के बारे में और एक्सटेंशन के बारे में वह सब इसने देख लिये हैं । मेरे