

Shri Achar: Are they mere grants or have they been spent?

Shri Karmarkar: They are grants that we have made and we stick to them. Whether they are completely spent or not, we shall have to refer and find out.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government propose to increase the allotment that is made in the Second Plan, namely, Rs. 2.54 lakhs for the entire Plan period for the development of Siddha form of medicine?

Shri Karmarkar: A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made to aid ayurveda, unani, homoeopathy, nature cure, siddha form and such other indigenous systems. When we receive proposals from the States we look into the matter and see whether we can give them any possible aid. In fact, we would like to do much better if proper schemes are received from the State Governments.

Shri Tangamani: Now Rs. 2½ lakhs have been allotted to Madras. Will there be any enhancement?

Shri Karmarkar: We shall see that the claims of Madras State are honoured fully as early as possible. My colleague, the Madras Health Minister is fully satisfied with the progress that we have made in respect of aid to Madras State.

Looting of a Goods Train

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*1475. { Shri A. S. Saigal:
Shri Assar:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train was looted by a gang of wagon lifters on Monday, the 17th March, 1956 near Kiul on the down line of the Dinapur Division of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the loss involved; and

(c) whether any persons have been arrested in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A theft took place in a running Goods train near Kiul on 17th March night in which two wagons were tampered with and bags of garlic, mustered seeds and rape seeds were thrown out. This was noticed and the train stopped and backed and a number of bags which were lying near the track were recovered.

(b) It was found that two bags of garlic were short in one wagon. The other wagon contained rape seed bags and the actual number short is being ascertained as there was no guidance slip giving full details.

(c) None so far. Investigation is proceeding.

सरदार भ० सि० सहगल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इसकी इनवेस्टिगेशन करने में आप कितना समय लेंगे और उसकी पूरी रिपोर्ट को क्या आप इस सदन के सामने भी रख सकेंगे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : उसका इनवेस्टिगेशन हम नहीं करेंगे बल्कि जी० आर० पी० और स्टेट पुलिस करेगी, रही उसके खत्म होने की बात तो वह तो हालात के ऊपर इसका दारोमदार है कि वे कब खत्म कर सकेंगे। मामलत पर ऐसी रिपोर्टें सदन की मेज पर नहीं रखी जाती हैं।

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Will Government consider the question of stationing armed patrol on these stations to act as a deterrent against looting?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I like to inform the hon. Member that this train was actually accompanied by an armed guard of the RPF. As soon as they detected a bag falling out, they pulled the chain, stopped the train and ran to stop and catch the culprits. But

as it was after mid-night, the culprits slipped away into the nearby jungle and, unfortunately, they could not be caught.

Shri Sonavane: What other steps are being taken by the Government to prevent such loss of property?

Mr. Speaker: We are going into the case of a single train where there was armed guard. In addition to that, shall we have a general discussion?

Shri Sonavane: There are several thefts and looting of goods trains not only in this line but in several other lines also.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Next question.

Central Arecanut Committee

*1476. **Shri Warrior:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 925 on the 26th August, 1957 and state whether the Government have taken any decision to shift the offices of the Central Arecanut Committee from Kozhikode to Mysore?

The Minister of Co-operation (Shri F. S. Deshmukh): The reply is in negative.

Shri Basappa: In view of the fact that more facilities are available in Mysore and the quantity of arecanut produced in Mysore is more, may I know whether the Committee has taken a decision that it should be transferred to Mysore?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Except the member from Kerala, the Sub-Committee did come to the decision to transfer the headquarters to Mysore.

Shri Vasudevam Nair: Is it not a fact that the production of arecanut is the largest in Kerala State?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are arguing between Kerala and Mysore.

Shri Vasudevam Nair: It is a fact.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Secretary of this Committee hails from Mysore and that is one of the reasons for its transfer?

Starvation Deaths in Bihar

*1477. **Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several deaths due to starvation have taken place in the Sadar and Madhubani Sub-divisions in Darbhanga District in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to avert further deterioration of the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह : क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को विश्वास है कि बिहार के प्रकाल पीड़ित और अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में जिस गति से रिलीफ का काम चलाया जा रहा है उससे आगे आने वाले संकटपूर्ण महीनों में भूखमरी से जनता को बचाया जा सकता है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Some relief measures have been adopted by the State Government. They are distributing free grains to indigent and sick persons. Those who can do manual work, they are provided with work. For those who are unemployed but are not physically fit for manual labour, light manual labour is provided. About Rs. 13.6 lakhs have been distributed to needy cultivators as loans. 234 tube-wells have been sunk. 700 village-type medicine boxes have been distributed. These steps are being taken on its own responsibility by the State Government. We will provide all help that is possible.

With regard to the supply of food-grains, there is no difficulty. There are adequate stocks in Bihar.