

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know why the State of Madras has not been treated on a par with other States?

Mr. Speaker: The question of treatment does not follow. He said he has not got the figures.

HOSPITALS

***1609. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals, dispensaries and staffs existing at present in the tribal areas of Assam and Manipur;

(b) how many Leper Colonies there are in the said areas; and

(c) how many Christian Hospitals there are in the said areas?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.]

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know, Sir, the number of Leper Colonies managed by the Government and by the Missions?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The number of Leper Colonies managed by the Government in the Assam tribal area is three, and in Manipur two.

Shri Rishang Keishing: By the Missions or by the Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I thought he asked how many were managed by Government. Three in the Assam tribal areas and two in Manipur, and by the Mission, five in the Assam Tribal areas and two in Manipur.

Shri Rishang Keishing: What is the help given by the Government to those leper colonies manned by the Mission organisation?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not got any information, but I do not think there is any help given.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it a fact that most of the hospitals in this area are without adequate medical supplies, medical staff, proper quarters and furnitures?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have received no complaints.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether Government is aware that leprosy is on the increase in Assam, and will Government therefore be pleased to provide a clinic in every hospital wherever it is possible?

Mr. Speaker: She may answer the question, but it is a suggestion for action.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government would like to do much in that line, but it is all a question of money.

ROADS IN MANIPUR

***1610. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what schemes Government have made for the development of roads in Assam and Manipur under the Five Years Plan;

(b) how many motorable roads have been completed in the said areas since the achievement of Independence; and

(c) the total amount spent so far by Government for the construction of roads in the said tribal areas?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the development of roads in Tribal Areas in Assam and Manipur.

Plans for development of roads in the Tribal Areas in these two States have not yet been finalised.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it a fact that most of the motorable roads, about 200 miles in length, constructed by the village volunteers under the supervision of the Government, have been neglected?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am not aware of that, but as the hon. Member has drawn the notice of Government to it, we will look into the matter.

Shri Rishang Keishing: As the tribal people are keenly interested in the construction of roads without any profit motive, is it the policy of the Government to give the contracts to the tribal organisation in the future?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, when the contracts are given, tenders are invited, and it will be difficult to confine the tenders or the contracts to tribal people only.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What prevents Government from giving these contracts to co-operative labour organisations of the tribal people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. These are all suggestions.