

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 managed 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.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government are aware that the hon. Member **Shri Rishang Keishing** has to walk about eighty miles to reach a cartable road to come to this House of Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

COUNCIL OF ADVISERS FOR MANIPUR
AND TRIPURA

*1611. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 532 asked on the 5th June, 1952 and state:

(a) the approximate date when the Council of Advisers is likely to be appointed;

(b) what will be the number of members of the Council of Advisers; and

(c) the procedure to be followed in selecting the members of the Councils?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (c). All these matters are under very active consideration and Government hope to finalise these arrangements at a very early date.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that all Members of the electoral college of Tripura including Congress Members have stated their objections against the appointment of an Advisory Council?

Dr. Katju: All these matters are under active consideration.

LAND ARMY

*1612. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether *Bhumi Sena* or Land Army has been started under the Land Transformation Programme; and

(b) if so, on what basis the army has been composed?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The State Governments and certain institutions have been requested to make a beginning in the formation of a Land Army for harnessing public interest for agricultural development and a few States have organised such Land Armies.

(b) The Land Army will consist of all classes of persons who are interested in the development of the villages

and are prepared to direct their enthusiasm to agricultural extension and development.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether this army would be composed of volunteers or men paid for their services?

Shri Karmarkar: The conception is that the personnel of the land army will consist of official and non-official workers who are actually working on the extension in the districts, students of colleges, particularly agricultural colleges in the States, and public men including Members of Parliament and State Legislatures who will be willing to associate themselves with this activity.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what are the salient features of the ten year programme of land transformation under which the land army also is thought of?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the target of production aimed at at the end of the ten year period?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice about it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the exact nature of the activities of the land army?

Shri Karmarkar: The activities are agricultural in all ways.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Will the Minister please tell us how many States have formed these armies, what their probable number is and how much work has already been done in reclaiming land?

Shri Karmarkar: I have information for seven States here: the unit organised by Delhi, the unit organised by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, West Bengal State, Bombay State, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal State and Assam State. To begin with, the land army units which have not so far received any special training, have been assigned *ad hoc* by the authorities organising the units. In some places they have dug drains, constructed roads, planted trees, eradicated weeds and similar work relating to agricultural production.