

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Are only clerks and sorters trained there or are any officers also given training?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** This institution is meant only for postal clerks and R.M.S. sorters.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know in which place in Chota Nagpur this centre is going to be opened?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The place has not yet been settled. It may be in Ranchi, or some other suitable place.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Is any instruction given in this institution on the social side, namely, polite treatment of the public, courtesy, etc.?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is implied. Every postal employee is expected to be ideally courteous.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it not a fact that Class I postal officers were trained in Saharanpur in similar institutions?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I don't think so. This is meant for postal clerks and R.M.S. sorters.

#### SOCIAL GUIDES

\*800. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of social guides at important railway Stations has been reduced; and

(b) if so, for what reasons?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). The number has been reduced in keeping with revised requirements.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** May I know whether this experiment on the different Railways ever since its inception in August 1948 has proved to be of any utility to the public?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Mr. Santhanam after some of his extensive tours felt that the public were not getting the kind of assistance that was anticipated and that the number of these guides was unduly large.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** What is the percentage of reduction brought about in the institution of social guides?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The number has been reduced from 277 where it originally stood to 152.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know whether there are any women working as social guides?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I must plead I am not quite aware.

**Shri Badshah Gupta:** May I know the saving that has been effected on account of the reduction in the number?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I cannot give the exact figure just now, but the persons who have been retrenched have been absorbed in railway services. In some cases, they refused to be so absorbed as they were primarily social workers.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** Is it a fact that after three years of service all of them were given notice and only 50 per cent. of them have been re-absorbed at half the pay they were getting before?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** As far as my information goes, everybody who wanted to be absorbed has been absorbed.

#### KHARAGPUR RAILWAY STAFF (AMENITIES)

\*801. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount that will be spent for the amenities of the railway staff at Kharagpur in 1952-53?

(b) What are the different heads of expenditure with the amount against them?

(c) Are the condemned class IV quarters at Kharagpur going to be demolished this year?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) Rs. 12,94,000.

(b) The distribution of the proposed expenditure is as follows:—

New Staff quarters	Rs. 4,44,000
Improvement to existing quarters	Rs. 6,85,000
Medical facilities	Rs. 54,000
Miscellaneous amenities	Rs. 1,11,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs. 12,94,000</b>

(c) There is no proposal to demolish any class IV staff quarters at Kharagpur at present.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether repeated representations have been received by the hon. Minister from the employees at Kharagpur about the want of accommodation for students in the railway schools there?

**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?