

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?