

work from State Governments as also certain local bodies interested in furtherance of Hindi. Where additional staff was considered justified, the same has been posted. Certain concessions regarding higher rates for printing had to be made to the printers.]

MISAPPROPRIATION OF MONEY BELONGING TO COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN WEST BENGAL

*142. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1029 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1968 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were allegations of misappropriation of public funds including those belonging to Co-operative Societies in West Bengal against Shri Atulya Ghosh and Shri Profulla Sen amongst others;

(b) if so, whether such allegations were sent to the Detective Department of the Calcutta Police for investigation; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter by the Government of West Bengal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY):

(a) There were allegations of misappropriation of funds of co-operatives against Shri Atulya Ghosh. There was no allegation of misappropriation against Shri Profulla Sen.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) After a preliminary examination of the allegations by the Police, the Cooperative Department have

been asked to get the accounts of the concerned societies audited.

FOOD DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS ON DEPUTATION

*143. SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that secretariat staff of the Agriculture Department were given an option to elect service in the I.C.A.R. with all benefits of Government service;

(b) whether similar concession is proposed to be given to the Assistants of Food Department who are on deputation to Food Corporation of India, to opt service in this Corporation with all the benefits given to transferees; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir; but only Central Secretariat Services staff upto and including Section Officers' grade and with almost all benefits of Government service.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The Food Corporation of India is gradually taking over all the field functions of the Food Department relating to procurement, storage, distribution, movement etc. of food-grains, which were and are being performed by officers and staff of the Food Department's non-Secretariat cadre. It is these personnel who are being absorbed by the Food Corporation of India on the progressive transfer of these functions to the Corporation.