

starting at least the use of khadi by supplying khadi uniforms to these gangmen?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We are ourselves very keen to use khadi as much as we can but it has not been possible for the All-India Spinners Association to supply us suitable cloth for uniform purposes. The matter is under our consideration and recently the representatives of the All-India Spinners Association discussed this matter with us. We have already placed orders for a few lakhs of rupees worth of khadi and we propose to purchase more khadi later provided suitable cloth is available.

SHRI B. RATH: In case khadi is supplied, will the scale of uniforms increase or remain the same, because khadi is not more durable than khaki cloth?

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: That is not a fact.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Khadi is equally durable.

HON. MEMBERS: More durable.

SHRI B. RATH: That is not my impression. What is the tentative proposal that is being considered by the Railway Administration for evolving a common scale of uniforms for all the Railway employees? There must be some proposal which is being considered.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: On the ex-B.N.R. and ex-E.I.R. Sections the old practice of issuing uniforms is continuing although both the sections have been merged in the Eastern Railway now. Hence the administration is considering the question of evolving a common scale of uniforms. Now they are different on the different sections of the same Railway.

SHRI B. RATH: My question was: what is the tentative scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks what is the tentative scheme which you have

evolved. You say it is under consideration.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

RE-IMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CHARGES TO CLASS IV RAILWAY SERVANTS

*182. **SHRI B. RATH:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the class IV railway staff are not granted reimbursement of medical charges incurred for treatment taken in hospitals other than railway hospitals; if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes, Sir.

Government consider that for the class IV Railway staff who are already allowed free medical treatment in all Railway hospitals and dispensaries, further relief should be in the direction of increasing the facilities in the Railway hospitals and dispensaries rather than in encouraging them to go to non-Railway hospitals for treatment.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that the Railway hospitals do not provide sufficient accommodation so that all the class IV Railway employees can find accommodation there?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I agree there may be difficulties in accommodating all the patients as in-patients, but it is a matter of common knowledge that Railway hospitals are better staffed and better equipped than other hospitals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't say that. Mrs. Chandrasekhar may not agree.

SHRI B. RATH: When the Railway hospitals cannot accommodate all the patients who come there, how is it possible for the Railway employees to be treated although they are better staffed and better equipped?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The hon. Member assumes that there is accom-

modation in other hospitals and that accommodation is lacking only in Railway hospitals. It is not the case.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: If a Railway medical officer forwards his own case from his hospital to any other Government hospital, in that case will the Railways pay the amount of the medicine incurred on that patient?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No. He does not do it.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Sometimes there are such patients in Railway hospitals or small dispensaries where they cannot be treated and these patients can be treated in another hospital and the medical officer sends them, what will happen?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In other big Railway hospitals they can be treated.

SHRI B. RATH: Is the hon. Minister evading the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI B. RATH: Yes, because I know in Kharagpur there is a railway hospital where operations cannot be handled. So when a class IV employee is directed to be operated upon he cannot go to Kharagpur; he has to come to Cuttack. At Kharagpur there is no chance of the patient being operated upon. Then is he to die? Or will the Government re-imburse the amount spent by him in getting himself treated in the other hospital?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I would request the hon. Member to listen to my answer. As I have already said, he can be sent to bigger railway hospitals.

SHRI B. RATH: But the biggest railway hospital in the Eastern Zone is the one at Kharagpur and there there is no seat available. What is to happen?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks, if there is no seat at Kharagpur?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We are trying to provide as much accommodation as possible and we have provided more beds. But we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate each and every patient in the railway hospitals. They are also helped in being admitted to other hospitals. At present, Government are considering that further relief to class IV staff in this matter should be more in the direction of increasing the facilities available in railway hospitals and dispensaries; and as I stated before, the matter is already under our consideration and we will try to expand our hospitals as much as we can.

SHRI B. RATH: Before the matter is decided, and in view of the fact that class IV employees are facing difficulties, will Government consider the necessity, till sufficient accommodation is provided in the railway hospitals for all the patients, of re-imbursing the expenditure that has been incurred in the other hospitals.

MR. CHAIRMAN. That is a suggestion for action.

USE OF AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*183. **SHRI K. C. GEORGE:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of ammonium sulphate alone, without the admixture of any other fertiliser, increases the yield for the first two or three years only and is followed by a sharp decline; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what methods Government have devised to prevent this decline in the yield?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). The use of ammonium sulphate alone without the admixture of any other fertiliser, has been found to give consistently good yields on soils deficient only in nitrogen and with adequate lime reserve. Admixture of ammonium sulphate with other fertilisers is