

**Fig.** From Rs. 25 crores, it is likely to go up to Rs. 220 crores or so per year.

**Gardar Lugal Singh:** What is the total amount of loans that were given by the State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India to the State co-operative banks during this year?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The question is about the subsidy that we have given to the States. About the Reserve Bank, it requires a separate question.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know whether the Government are thinking of an Agricultural Finance Corporation specially for the rural credit?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** There is no necessity. It is too early to say about that.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether apart from the amount which is being given as loan to the State Governments, any amount is being given as loan to the agriculturists directly?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** They get from the Reserve Bank short term, medium term and long term loans, and these loans have reached up to five to six times that which they were getting in the first Five Year Plan.

#### Tenders for Forest Contracts in Himachal Pradesh

\*864. **Shri Y. S. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of open auctions, the Himachal Pradesh Administration has adopted the system of tenders for forest contracts on leases;

(b) whether it is a fact that tenders for Chamba Churah forests were recently opened at Abdullapur;

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount of each tender was not announced on the spot when the tenders were opened;

(d) whether it is a fact that present contractor had offered to pay Rs. ten lakhs over and above the amount of the highest tender;

(e) whether it is a fact that neither the offer of Rs. 10 lakhs and above every body else's nor highest bid otherwise was accepted but the forest allotted to all tenderers; and

(f) if so, who are those tenderers and what are the amounts they have to pay?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) After the tenders were opened and amounts announced, a contractor had offered Rs. 7,68,000/- over and above the highest tenders telegraphically but as a rule no such offers are entertained after the tenders are opened, therefore the offer was ignored.

(e) No, the highest offers were accepted.

(f) Does not arise

#### Medicinal Plants

\*866. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) which States have submitted schemes for cultivation of medicinal plants on an increased scale during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of financial assistance so far afforded to them for implementation of these schemes; and

(c) which are the main plants sought to be cultivated on an increased scale for consumption in the country and also for export?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh.