

gone, in which book has it been entered and how has the debit on the other side been adjusted.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I do not have the information with me now, I would require notice

**Shri Heda:** Apart from these capital assets, so far as the liquid cash of the former railways in the old princely States are concerned, it was stated at that time that this cash would be utilised in the construction of new railway lines in those areas. May I know whether that promise has been implemented or not?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I would require notice to answer that point also, I am not aware of that promise or assurance.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj:** May I know whether the different projects of the different railways in Rajasthan which were pending with them at the time of amalgamation have all been completed, or they are under consideration, or whether are they not to be completed at all?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I do not know whether it arises out of this question. But, I may tell the hon. Member that those projects which were already taken in hand might have been proceeded with, and some of the projects which were contemplated by those railways will be treated on a par with the projects in other parts of the country, they may be considered if the financial resources provided in the Plan permit it.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj:** Because Rajasthan is an underdeveloped country, may I know whether special consideration will be given at the time of the consideration of the projects? If you consider them at par underdeveloped countries like Rajasthan will suffer.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** There are parts in India which, from that point of view, may be regarded more backward than even Rajasthan. As I have said, if the financial and material resources permit it the question of

all the backward areas will be taken into consideration.

#### Irrigated Areas in States

\*698. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether there is shortfall in the extent of irrigated area as reported by the States in 1956-57 in their progress reports as compared to the extent reported by the States in 1955-56 in connection with the preparation of the Second Plan, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha as soon as it is ready.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statement made by Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, to the effect that out of the irrigation projects, while 63 million acres should have been brought under cultivation by 1956, as a matter of fact, only 4 million acres were brought under cultivation and, if so, may I know whether any further facts will be collected?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn. But the question asked is, how the figure for 1956-57 compare with that of 1955-56. That is why the figures are necessary.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** May I know whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to a further statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission that this is a waste of national asset, namely, to keep the water impounded at enormous cost unutilised and, if so, what steps are the Government going to take or are taking now?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The hon. Member has already the information. He has given me the information. We

have the information. But the question is, how the figures in question compare with those of the previous year. That information has got to be collected.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether it is a fact that the irrigated area in 1956-57 went down as compared to the irrigated areas in 1955-56 and, if so, by how much has it gone down? What is the information that the Government possess?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Those are the figures that we are collecting. So far as the statement in the question is concerned, there is a shortfall. It is a statement and it is a correct one. But we want the figures to know how the figures for 1956-57 compare with those of 1955-56. Those figures are not up-to-date with me. That is why I said we are collecting the information.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** In view of the fact that there is a shortfall in the irrigated area, will the Government enquire into those projects which have not come to the mark or at least which have not completed their quota in respect of irrigation?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Surely This is a very grave question and the Government are considering how to tackle it.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The hon Minister admitted that the shortfall is known to the Government. So, what are the reasons for the shortfall?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The question as to what the reasons are does not exactly arise. The hon. Member has asked how the figures compare with the figures for the previous year. So far as the other question is concerned, namely, how to deal with the shortfall, as I said, it is a grave question and we are considering it, and very soon our policy will be made known to Parliament.

**Shri Jadhav:** Is it a fact that the Bombay State has got the lowest acreage of irrigated land in the whole of India and, if so, is the Government going to concentrate on it?

**Mr. Speaker:** That does not arise out of this question.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I am sorry that the hon. Minister has misunderstood the question. I asked the question whether there is a shortfall and, if so, what are the reasons therefor. I have not asked for any comparative statement.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The question is whether there is a shortfall in the extent of irrigated area as reported by the States in 1956-57, in their progress reports, as compared to the extent reported by the States in 1955-56. Therefore, there is a comparison. So far as the shortfall is concerned, we admit it. It is a shortfall. But that is not the information asked for.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** What are the reasons for the shortfall?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Member wants an answer to part (b) of his question—"the reasons therefor".

**Shri S. K. Patil:** These are the reasons for the shortfall. Of course, they have not been thoroughly enquired into, but as far as our present information goes, it is this. The shortfall in the irrigated area is mainly due to (1) canals and distributaries not being completed by the time the dam is complete and the stored water is available for use; (2) the time-lag between the completion of the project in all respects and the readiness of the cultivator to utilise the water for irrigation.

#### Over-Bridge in Delhi

\*699. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the over-bridge between Lahori Gate to Qutab Road in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work is at a standstill;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;