

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are taking precautions to see that the labels are not lost. If as a result of experiments, it is found necessary to take any further steps, we will take those steps.

Use of Explosive in Fishing

*541. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether explosives are widely used in fishing in the Manipur rivers,

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the use of explosives leads to mass destruction of fish, and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

The Deputy-Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The use of explosives in fishing is strictly prohibited under the provisions of rule 17 of the Manipur Fisheries Rules, breach of which is a penal offence under Section 4 of the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897

Export of Sugar

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*542. { **Shri Heda:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of sugar exported during 1957-58 so far, and

(b) to what extent, sharp increase in the excise duty from Rs 5.62 per cwt to Rs 11.25 per cwt had the desired effect?

The Deputy-Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Contract were finalised for sale of 87,300 tons of sugar from 1st April 1957 to 15th July 1957 of which 48,314 tons was actually shipped during the period

(b) It is too early to say what effect increase in excise duty would have on export of sugar.

Shri Heda: In reply to part (b) the hon Minister is not able to give accurate figures. Would it be possible for him to give us the trends—whether the levy of the excise duty has encouraged export or not?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: As an economist I can say that when the prices go up, the consumption is bound to go down. But, we have to wait and see how it acts. Sometimes economists fail in these days of movements and cross-movements.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: It was expected that the consumption would go down. Has it gone down or not?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): It is too early to say whether the consumption in the country will go down as a result of increase in the excise duty. Nonetheless, I may inform the House that the chances of export of sugar are becoming rather slim because world prices have considerably gone down during the last few days.

Shri Ranga: Is the Government quite sure that there is no smuggling of sugar into the other side of the border?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have no evidence.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In order that the prices may go down in the open market, may I know whether the Reserve Bank has taken any step in regard to the relaxation of advances given to traders against stocks of sugar, and how far that relaxation by the Reserve Bank has produced the desired effect?

Shri A. P. Jain: A few weeks ago the Reserve Bank had issued a directive to the scheduled banks to limit the advances against sugar stocks held by the trade and by the mills. They had also increased the margin money. Subsequently, they have modified their original directive and the stocks held by the mills have been exempted from the operation of these directives.

Shri Anthony Pillai: In view of the fact that the excise duty was sought to be justified on the ground that there is likely to be an increase in the export of sugar, and in view of the recent statement made by the hon. Minister that there is little likelihood of any increase in the export of sugar because the world market price is going down, will the Government reconsider the question of withdrawing the excise duty that has already been imposed?

Shri A. P. Jain: That was only one of the considerations for the imposition of excise duty. There were many other considerations, and more important than encouraging export, one being to earn revenue.

D.V.C.

*543. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the area irrigated by D.V.C. within the last two years;

(b) the total area irrigated by D.V.C. in Bihar at present; and

(c) the total area estimated to be irrigated by D. V. C.?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No area was irrigated by D.V.C. in 1955. 11,271 acres of land were irrigated in 1956.

(b) Nil.

(c) Kharif .. 10,10,500 acres.
Rabi .. 3,05,500 acres.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Sir, I suggest that Questions Nos. 543 and 547 may also be answered along with this, because they also relate to D.V.C.

Mr. Speaker: All right; they may be taken together.

Hydel Power Plant at Konar (D.V.C.)

*546. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan for constructing the hydel power plant at Konar (D.V.C.) has been given up; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay in setting up that plant?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No, Sir. The Scheme has only been postponed for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

Damodar Valley Corporation Act

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*547. { Shri Supakar:
Shri Bimal Ghose:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether either of the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar of both have moved the Government of India to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act with a view to improving the standard of its administration; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in the matter?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Government have received from the Government of West Bengal a copy of the proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly relating to a special motion passed by them on the 13th July, 1957 authorising the Chief Minister, West Bengal, to point out the various defects and anomalies existing in the D.V.C. Act to the Government of India and to suggest that the said Act may be amended or altered, if necessary by vesting the Government of India with the entire control and charge of the D.V.C. as in the case of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Government have not received any communication from the Government of Bihar on the subject of the amendment of the D.V.C. Act.