

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.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In the Tilaiya Dam and Konar Dam area there are reservoirs totalling an area of over 60 square miles, and the water is lying there for the last five years. May I know why no step has been taken so far by the D.V.C. authorities to construct canals? In the Tilaiya Dam area, according to the plan, they should have constructed by now high level canals, low level canals or lift irrigation system. May I know why that has not been done so far?

Shri S. K. Patil: So far as the irrigation part of Tilaiya Dam is concerned, there have been one or two schemes in Bihar. The first scheme that was proposed was found to be very very expensive by the Bihar Government itself and, therefore, they could not undertake it. There are not much of irrigation possibilities there except at a very heavy expense. There second scheme and third scheme, which are comparatively less expensive and which have been now passed by the Bihar Government, are under active examination of the C.W.F.C., and very soon they would be included in the Five Year Plan.

So far as Konar is concerned, there does not seem to be any possibility of irrigation in Bihar. That Dam is mainly intended in order to supply water to Bokaro and, therefore, except at a very heavy cost its use for irrigation purposes is very doubtful.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister just now said that the Konar water was intended only for cooling purposes in Bokaro. May I know whether this was the original plan, because a cooling plant could have been constructed at Bokaro at a lesser cost than this Konar Dam where we have spent about Rs. 3 crores and the water is going to the Bay of Bengal without any purpose?

Shri S. K. Patil: There are always, Sir, possibilities of these dams being used for multi-purposes. But, the question is, the cost and other circumstances have got to be taken into

consideration. Having taken these into consideration the Bihar Government has not yet recommended any scheme for the utilisation of water for irrigation purposes so far as Konar is concerned. Regarding the other one, I have already replied that they have got a scheme which is being examined.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Out of 11 lakh acres estimated to be irrigated only 11,000 acres are being irrigated at present. May I know in how many years the target will be reached and how many miles of channels have been completed by this time?

Shri S. K. Patil: There is no relation, because the 11 lakhs to which the hon. Member refers is the ultimate thing after the Durgapur Barrage and everything is finished. Last year, 1956, there were facilities for the irrigation of 1,00,000 acres out of which only 11,000 acres were irrigated. This year there are facilities for the irrigation of somewhere about 2,00,000 acres—1,91,000 acres to be exact. Possibly, that was due to the water rates, and the Government of Bengal has been considering as to how to ease the situation. The latest report is that they have given it free for one year and I am quite sure, if that is so, all the land that is now available for irrigation will be used completely.

Shri Supakar: May I know when the full irrigation potential will be utilised, and what will be the additional cost to Government to build these canals and distributaries?

Shri S. K. Patil: It will take one or two years for the whole irrigation potential to come into operation. How exactly the people will use it, what will be the rates that will ultimately rule are questions that are difficult for me, and where we require the co-operation of hon. Members. It is a social problem which we must tackle very seriously.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Arising out of the answer to question No. 547, may I know whether the question of reviewing the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation is being proposed?

Shri S. K. Patil: Yes, that is being done, of course, that is constantly being done, and very soon we are coming with some amendments to the Act itself so that we shall bring the whole DVC under review and also the vote of this hon. House

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the discussions which have taken place in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly where it was stated by the Treasury Benches that the West Bengal Government found it very difficult to express its own opinions or put forward its own difficulties to be considered by the DVC for lack of enough representation on the DVC, and if so, may I know whether the Central Government is now considering to change its composition with a view to give more representation to Bengal and Bihar?

Shri S. K. Patil: We have been constantly keeping in touch with what happens in the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal and we have also received the proceedings of the debate there on that particular motion. We have written to the West Bengal Government and also to the Bihar Government that whatever changes or amendments that they want to make may be communicated to us so that we can have them before this House. The whole picture of their amendments will be before this House.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister said that the Government of Bihar found it very expensive to construct that canal system in the Tilaya area. May I know whether the DVC authority purchases all the boats for plying in the Tilaya Dam area and also whether they have finalised their estimate to construct the 16 or 17-room Circuit House at the top of the Tilaya hill with the advice of the Government of Bihar?

Mr. Speaker: That was mooted in the course of the debate on Irrigation and Power.

Shri S. K. Patil: That is a matter that will be left to me for answer in the course of the debate on grants. The hon. Member should wait a little while.

Shri Supakar: May I know what are the points in the debate in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly to which the attention of the Government of India has been drawn in the matter of amendment of the DVC Act?

Shri S. K. Patil: We have got the proceedings of the entire debate of that Assembly. As to the other points that are not covered by the debate, we have written to the Bengal Government in order to have a complete picture of the amendment that they want to make. We have also written to the Bihar Government. It is not a secret matter at all.

Grow More Food Campaigns

*544. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the total amount given to each State as grant or subsidy for the purpose of Grow More Food Campaigns, during the First Five Year Plan;

(b) the consideration which weighed with Government in making the allotments,

(c) whether any State has not utilised fully or in part the amounts given for this purpose, and

(d) if so, the names of such States and the amounts not utilised?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) (a), (c) and (d) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House [See Appendix II, annexure No 53]

(b) The main consideration which weighed with Government in making the allotment were the demand from the States based on the nature of the schemes sent by them and the potentiality of the various schemes in order to increase food production, and the financial position prevailing in the States.