

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.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: From that statement that is placed on the Table of the House, I find that during the first Five Year Plan, the Kerala State did not utilise 50 per cent. of the amount sanctioned to them. May I know whether, in view of the fact that the Kerala State was a highly deficit area in food and because of the vital importance of the Grow More Food Campaign for the success of the first Five Year Plan, the Central Government has sought an explanation from the State Government as to why this amount was not utilised?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This problem was scrutinised and examined properly and it was found that there was some defect. Though the Central Government used to inform the State Government about this fact and the sanction of the amount, actually, the amount was paid only when the execution was in progress and they could draw only in proportion to the what they had spent. The ways and means position and the financial position of some of the State Governments were not so good. It was rather very difficult for them to spend and then take it back from the Central Government. Now, we have decided in the second Five Year Plan to first give them 50 per cent. of the amount so that they can start and then claim the rest.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that a majority of the State Governments have not utilised the 50 per cent. of the grant and in view of the present situation, situation regarding food and also the necessity for having the Grow More Food Campaign, will the Government consider giving an additional allotment, owing to the fact that the amount had lapsed in the first Five Year Plan?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: When the allotment was made for the second Five Year Plan, these problems had been considered as to how much each Government has spent during the first Five Year Plan of the amount sanctioned. All these points are taken into consideration.

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know whether the Kerala State alone has allowed to lapse the amount allotted or any other State Government also have lapsed the amount?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Almost all the States except the Andhra State. It is only the Andhra State which has completely spent all the money that we gave them.

Shri Ranga: May I know, Sir, whether the grants that would be made for the Grow More Food Campaign during the second phase of our Plan would be just as big as they were during the first Five Year Plan, or, would they be more in the light of the latest position in our food situation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: If we include the agricultural credit in the second Five Year Plan, it would be more than that in the first Five Year Plan, but, if we take the exact amount, the position will be this. In the first Plan, there was a provision of Rs. 106 crores. In the second Plan, it was reduced to Rs. 78 crores. But in the second Plan, we have provided more for short term loans which will go directly to the second Five Year Plan schemes to invest in agriculture.

Shri Ranga: In view of the present credit supply, may I know whether the Government are going to reconsider their position in the light of the acute food situation and whether they will see that they would spend just at least as much as they spent during the first Five Year Plan by way of grants to the States and also to the peasants?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In the first Plan, though the provision was Rs. 106 crores, only 80 per cent. was utilised in the second Plan. We intend to utilise the entire amount and the various Ministries were also asking for more from the Planning Commission, so that we can spend more on our Grow More Food plans.

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: No hon. Member spoke on food situation in Kerala when I gave them an opportunity. Next question.