

Shri V. V. Giri: I cannot say they have not taken any action.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Labour Ministry of the Central Government has received any report regarding this from their Regional Labour Commissioner as to whether the Government of West Bengal has taken him into confidence in solving this problem?

Shri V. V. Giri: We are directly in touch with the West Bengal Government. We have not received any report from the Regional Labour Commissioner.

TUBE-WELLS IN PUNJAB

*77. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money which the Government of India have agreed to grant as loan to the Government of Punjab for the tube-wells project in the scarcity areas of Kangra and Hoshiarpur Districts;

(b) the number of tube-wells which are proposed to be sunk under that scheme; and

(c) the number of tube-wells that have already been sunk?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) The Government of India have not sanctioned any loan to the Government of the Punjab for the construction of tube-wells in the Kangra and Hoshiarpur districts.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know what criteria the Government of India have applied in determining what are scarcity areas? For instance, I submitted a short note....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let there be no argument. If an hon. Member puts a question, there will be an answer.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This question is about tube-wells in Kangra and Hoshiarpur Districts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How do you determine the scarcity areas?

Prof. D. C. Sharma: The question is mainly about scarcity areas. Therefore, my question is what criteria the Government of India apply in determining whether a particular area is a scarcity area. I want to know that, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it the hon. Member's contention that these are not scarcity areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): That is his contention.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know, when Government allotted aid for tube-wells in various Provinces? Was the claim of this area considered, or was it considered that this area is not suitable for tube-well construction? What were the actual reasons for not sanctioning tube-wells in these two districts?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The claims of different States will be considered, and it is left to the different States concerned to locate wherever they want the tube-wells in their respective States.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the Punjab Government did not claim for tube-wells for this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They have claimed and we have sanctioned them. My reply is that for these particular two districts we have not sanctioned any amount. We have sanctioned for the Punjab. I can give the list of tube-wells we have sanctioned. For these two particular districts we have not sanctioned.

Lala Achint Ram: Will you please give a list of those districts in Punjab?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have sanctioned for Samrala, Panipet, Kangra and Sonpet. In all these districts tube-wells have been started.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are evidently putting question

after question for this purpose: the grant is applied for or recommended by the State Government, and some districts are chosen. On what criterion do you choose these districts as against some other districts? If the hon. Minister is able to answer this.....

Shri Kidwai: It is the State Government that chooses the area and we accept their scheme wherever we think it fit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They also fix priority?

Shri Kidwai: According to their estimation.

Shri T. N. Singh: In answer to this question, it was just stated that the State Government had claimed for this area tube-wells also. So, the choice of the State Government was in favour of this area.

Shri Kidwai: I take it the hon. Member was not correct in hearing what has been said.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: The Minister did say that for these districts the sums were not sanctioned, which would mean that application was made by the State Government but it was not sanctioned.

Shri Kidwai: It did not mean that.

Lala Achint Ram rose,—

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, in view of the discussion that has taken place, if the Government of India will extend any particular help to these scarcity areas now?

Shri Kidwai: Let the request from the State Government come, and we will consider it in our next programme.

लाला अचिंत राम : क्या जिला हिसार भी इस लिस्ट में शामिल है ?

श्री एम० बी० कृष्णप्पा : कौन कौन से डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स इस में हैं वह मैं न पढ़ा हूँ।

Col. Zaidi: Will the sinking of tube-wells be a success in Kangra District?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is for the experts to say.

CONTROL ON FOODGRAINS

*78. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent and nature of the relaxations made in the matter of control on foodgrains after 1st January, 1953 in the various States;

(b) the nature and extent of the existing control on foodgrains in various States;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have advised State Governments to remove control on wheat;

(d) if so, which State Governments have followed this advice; and

(e) the policy of Government regarding relaxation of the present control on rice?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) and (b). Two statements, one showing relaxations allowed in control of foodgrains since 1st January, 1953, and the other the nature and extent of the existing controls in various States, are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 7.]

(c) Yes, except in the case of Delhi.

(d) Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Bhopal, Ajmer, Assam, Vindhya Pradesh, Madras and West Bengal.

(e) The question of any further relaxation in the existing controls on rice will be considered after an estimate is made of the conditions of the rice crop of 1953-54.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that now India is self-sufficient in the matter of rice, and if so, where is the difficulty in removing the statutory control and opening fair price shops wherever necessary?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): India is self-sufficient to the extent that whatever