

State Government on 24th June, 1961 that a scheme for the establishment of a mobile testing laboratory had been approved by them, that is, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and that the mobile soil testing laboratories at Trivandrum, Alleppey and Pattambi would be allotted to the State, and if so, may I know what the position is today ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** So far, we have been able to supply these mobile soil testing laboratories or units to ten States, namely UP, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Mysore, and two more vans are now ready for the States of Assam and Maharashtra. 11 more will be ready soon and they will be supplied to the other States.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** My question was whether in 1968 the Central Government wrote to the State Government that they had approved the scheme so far as three places in the State were concerned.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** We approved of the scheme in 1969 and we are implementing it in 1971-72. The fabrication of the vans and getting all the equipment etc. took unnecessarily long time in the DGS&D because of certain procedural delays. It is only now that we have been able to get these vans and we are supplying these vans to those States which are doing a lot of work in agriculture. We shall be slowly supplying them to the other States also. In all, we shall have about 34, 10 have already been supplied ; two will be supplied very soon ; 11 are under fabrication. More will be fabricated in 1971-72, and I think we shall be supplying all these 34 units.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** What is the form of assistance for the scheme ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** 100 per cent of the cost of the equipment and vans will be given by the Central Government. This will be Rs. 1.25 lakhs per unit, and this will be given by the Union Government. The cost of maintenance, operational costs etc. which will be about Rs. 30,000 per year will be met by the State Governments.

**SHRI D. BASUMATARI :** In the course of the reply, Assam was left out. Has

the Assam Government made a demand for a testing van ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** Yes. We supplied one van to Assam.

**SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN :** How many soil testing units are there in Bihar ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** We have already supplied one van to Bihar.

**SHRI LAKSHMINARAYANAN :** As soil testing is closely connected with the supply of fertiliser, will Government insist on the Fertiliser Corporation and fertiliser dealers taking up this work of soil testing so that after that the correct dosage of the correct fertiliser could be given to the agriculturists ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** Soil testing is done by these laboratories. They will also recommend the type of fertilisers to be used for the type of soil tested by them.

#### **Soviet Assistance to Kerala for production of Trawlers for Deep-Sea Fishing**

\*999 **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union had offered to Kerala big financial assistance for the setting up of factories to produce trawlers and other equipments for deep-sea fishing with a view to promote the fisheries industry there in 1966 ;

(b) If so, the main features of the proposal ; and

(c) whether the Kerala Government is allowed now to receive the aid from the USSR ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) :** (a) No offer of assistance for construction of a boat building yard in Kerala has been received either in 1966 or subsequently.

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

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** I seek your protection first.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There is nothing yet.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** The answer given is totally incorrect and misleading. The State Government has officially stated that there was proposal from the Soviet Union and at that time it was opposed by the Defence Ministry on the ground that there were some defence problems involved. So I would like to know from Government whether they have taken some decision now, after knowing that there are similar agreements between the Soviet Union and the USA and no danger to defence is involved in it, to accept the proposal.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** We did not have any such offer. We came to a certain agreement about fishing with the USSR in 1966, but that was a general agreement, not with regard to boat-building or anything else of this type.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** In the answer, the Minister has made reference to a port. In the question, I did not ask for any such thing. The question was whether the Soviet Union had offered big financial assistance for setting up a factory to produce trawlers and other deep-sea fishing equipment. It is not a dockyard or something like that.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has very categorically said that in 1966 there was a general agreement about fishing.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** The Minister has replied twice saying that he did not receive any proposal to set up a port. This is about a factory for producing trawlers. Why is he giving irrelevant answers ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** It is about some factory to be set up for building boats. There was no proposal for setting up a factory for trawlers. I said there was a general agreement about fishing.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** I am not satisfied with the answer.

He has already stated that there was an offer from the Soviet Union.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He says no.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** That is about port. I do not ask about port.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS :** Boat.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** I have asked about financial assistance for the setting up of a factory to produce trawlers.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You can call a trawler also a boat.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Actually what is the answer, I would like to know.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please do not indulge in hair-splitting so much.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** For the setting up of a factory, there was no offer.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** May I know whether it is a fact that some of the indigenous trawlers that have been bought are lying idle because they cannot be used, and that there is a ban that unless the indigenous trawlers are bought, no trawlers can be imported. Because the statement says that suitable trawlers to suit local conditions will be built later, will the Government consider removing the ban till then ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** The question is about a Soviet offer. He asks that if there is no offer from the Soviets, there are others, could they be availed of ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** When there is an offer, it will be considered.

**SHRI VARKEY GEORGE :** The Minister has said that the Government has not received an offer from the USSR to build deep-sea fishing trawlers. Will he kindly tell us whether the Government has received an offer from the USSR to promote deep-sea fishing.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** I said that an agreement was signed with the USSR in 1966. It was of a general nature.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Does it cover deep-sea fishing also ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** Yes.