

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That I cannot say.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What progress has been made on this project so far?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The General Manager and Chief Engineer have started functioning on the spot and the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer also has been posted and they are going ahead with the preliminaries. The construction is expected to commence by about October 1954.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO SUGAR FACTORIES

•175. SHRI H. C. MATHUR (ON BEHALF OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO): Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the wide variation between the provision of Rs. 430 lakhs in the supplementary estimates for the year 1952-53 for paying compensation to sugar factories and the actual payment of compensation of about Rs. 195 lakhs in that year; and

(b) whether the compensation claims have been carried forward to the subsequent years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The amount of compensation to be paid to the sugar factories on the basis of controlled stocks of sugar held by them on 1st December 1952 was estimated at Rs. 4.3 crores and a supplementary grant for the purpose was obtained during the financial year 1952-53 on the presumption that the entire controlled stock would be despatched by the end of February 1953.

It was decided that the subsidy to sugar factories should be paid in monthly instalments on the basis of actual quantity of sugar sold and despatched by them each month. Although the entire stocks of controlled sugar were released to sugar factories for sale and despatch by the 16th January 1953, and more than 95 per cent, of the said stock had been sold by the factories before the end of February 1953, not more than 3 lakh tons sugar could be despatched by them by that time. As payment of subsidy became due only after sugar had been actually despatched, a sum of Rs. 1.3 crores was surrendered. Due to late submission of bills by factories and because of the time taken for scrutiny by audit, the actual expenditure up to 31st March 1953 was, however, Rs. 1.95 crores as against the reduced provision of Rs. 3 crores. Excluding the sum of Rs. 1.95 crores paid to the factories before 1st April 1953, the subsidy payable is now estimated at Rs. 2.1 crores and a supplementary grant for this amount has been obtained during the financial year 1953-54. Since 1st April 1953, a further sum of Rs. 97 lakhs has been paid to the factories. Bills for the balance amount will be paid after local audit and such further examination as maybe found necessary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS'.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES

114. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a.) the number of minor irrigation-schemes in Mysore which have been found eligible for financial assistance from the Centre during the current financial year;

(b) the details of these schemes; and

(c) the amount of assistance- so far rendered?