

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 19th November, 1974/the
28th Kartika 1896 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*151. [The Questioner Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia was absent. For answer vide col. 30 infra.]

चीनी का निर्यात

*152. श्री कल्प नाथ :

श्री जगदीश जोशी : †

श्री गुणानंद ठाकुर :

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :

श्री नथी सिंह :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान अब तक कितने टन चीनी का निर्यात किया गया; और

(ख) क्या राज्यों ने चीनी के निर्यात में वृद्धि करने के लिए देश में चीनी के उत्पादनकर्ताओं को मनमाने ढंग से चीनी के मूल्य बढ़ाने की अनुमति दे दी है ?

†[Export of Sugar

*152. SHRI KALP NATH :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR :

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD

SHAHI :

SHRI NATHI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar in tonnes exported so far during the current financial year; and

(b) whether the States have permitted the producers to increase the price of sugar arbitrarily in the country in order to increase export of sugar ?]

वाणिज्य मंत्री (प्रो० देबी प्रसाद चट्टोपाध्याय) :

(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान अब तक लगभग 3.30 लाख मे० टन चीनी निर्यात की गई है।

(ख) 1973-74 मौसम में तैयार की गई चीनी के सम्बन्ध में सरकार द्वारा दिसम्बर, 1973 में अधिसूचित लेवी चीनी की कीमतों में संशोधन नहीं किया गया है।

खुली बिक्री की चीनी की कीमते सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित नहीं की जाती है।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) Approximately 3.30 lakh metric tonnes of sugar have been exported so far during the current financial year.

(b) The prices of levy sugar notified by Govt. in December, 1973 for the sugar produced in 1973-74 season have not been revised.

The prices of free-sale sugar are not fixed by Government.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वर्तमान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में शक्कर के भाव गिरते हुए देख कर सरकार अतिरिक्त

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Joshi
[] English translation.

अपने स्थानीय उपयोग को थोड़ा कम करके अतिरिक्त शक्कर विदेशों को भेजने के बारे में कुछ कार्रवाई कर रही है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Yes, Sir.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : क्या कदम सरकार उठाने जा रही है ताकि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में जो चीनी का दाम बढ़ा है उसका लाभ उत्पादकों को भी मिल सके ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, as I have said, already we have exported 3.30 lakh tonnes. Some more we have contracted for and will be exported, but as you will appreciate kindly we have to strike a balance between domestic requirements and export earnings. We will bear in mind the suggestion of the hon. Member for exporting more sugar.

श्री नरथो सिंह : क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि बाहर भेजने के उद्देश्य से चीनी के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, लेकिन देश में भी चीनी के दाम मनमाने ढंग से न बढ़ सकें, इसके लिए क्या कदम सरकार उठाना चाहती है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is a very difficult exercise. If we are to earn foreign exchange, then we have to rely on the commodity boom. It may not be a lasting feature, but if we do not export now we may not catch the train of high prices. That means some more sugar has to be diverted from the home market to the foreign market. So, we will always strike a balance, as I said. So far as the levy sugar price is concerned, it is always controlled and that accounts for almost 70 per cent of the total sugar production. That takes care of price stability at a reasonable level in the home market.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि एक्सपोर्ट में जो हायर प्राइस आपको मिल रहा है वह परमानेंट फीचर एक्सपोर्ट के लिए होता रहे, इस दृष्टि से इसका वैनिफिट प्रोड्यूसर तक भी पहुंचे, इसके लिए कोई कदम उठाया गया है

क्योंकि इसका जो लाभ है वह केवल मिलसं को मिलता है ।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : We are in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture on this matter. Non-levy sugar also we are getting for export and that goes to a great extent to the cane producers and even in respect of the other quantities for which we get a higher price, the price at which we sell. But sometimes

श्री रबी राय : सम्भाषित महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो शक्कर निर्यात करते हैं वह प्रति किलोग्राम कितने मूल्य में वह निर्यात करते हैं और जो देश के अंदर उपभोक्ता हैं उनको प्रति किलोग्राम कितने में मिलता है ? उन दोनों भावों में कितना अंतर है और उस अंतर को पाटने के लिए क्या वह कृषि मंत्रालय से बातचीत करेंगे ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : As you will appreciate, Sir, we can give the price at which we sell. But sometimes in between the sale we make to the foreign governments or some other parties, international parties—which they pass in their turn on to the foreign governments—at what price they get, that I cannot say ; but we can say at what price we sell. We have been selling sugar in the foreign markets. It has been going up in the last three or four months. During the last three or four months the prices of the type of sugar we sell have gone up, say, from £292 per tonne to £450. If it is high quality sugar it may be £550. And yesterday I read in the newspaper that it has gone, for the highest quality sugar, even beyond £600. So, it has gone on like that. But in the home market, as I said, there are two types of prices—one, the controlled price for 70 per cent sugar and the other for 30 per cent, the non-levy sugar. That depends upon the market forces. On 31st August, 1974, the Delhi open market price was Rs. 565 per quintal ; in Calcutta it was Rs. 470 per quintal and in Bombay it was Rs. 530 per quintal.

श्री रबी राय : होलसेल प्राइस नहीं बताइए, रीटेल प्राइस बताइए । सम्भाषित महोदय, मिनिस्टर

साहब को रिटेल प्राइस बताना चाहिए; क्योंकि कंज्यूमर को तो वह होलसेल प्राइस में नहीं मिलता है।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The retail price is not available because . . .

श्री रबी राय : सभापति महोदय, पीइन्ट आफ आर्डर आप खुद जानते हैं, देश में करोड़ों गरीब लोग, आदिवासी लोग और उपभोक्ता बसते हैं, वे रिटेल सेल में खरीदते हैं। मंत्री महोदय होलसेल प्राइस देकर हाउस को गुमराह करते हैं। इसलिए आप उनको डाइरेक्ट कीजिए कि रिटेल प्राइस को हाउस के सामने बता कर हमारे कवेशन का जवाब दें।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : As I have said, the consumer's price is the controlled price. So, whatever is the controlled price, at that price they get it.

SHRI RABI RAY : They do not get it at that price.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : There is 70 per cent controlled price and 30 per cent market price. The market price is fluctuating. I have already . . .

SHRI RABI RAY : Most of the people do not get sugar at the controlled price. Even MPs. are purchasing not at the controlled price but at the black market price. जो रिटेल प्राइस वह बताना चाहिए। होलसेल प्राइस बता कर वह हाउस को गुमराह करते हैं। जैसा मैंने अभी कहा देश के करोड़ों लोग आज रिटेल प्राइस में खरीदते हैं।

(Interruptions)

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I would submit that the original question was regarding the export of sugar. I appreciate the anxiety of the Members about the home market price also. But this is a question which can be suitably, satisfactorily and exhaustively answered by the Agriculture Minister.

श्री रबी राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से फिर कहूंगा कि मेरे सवाल को ध्यान से सुनें।

मेरा यह पूछना था कि जो निर्यात करते हैं उसके भाव में और यहां जिस भाव उपभोक्ताओं को मिलता है उसमें क्या अंतर है ? यह सवाल क्या जायज नहीं है ? अंतर क्या है ? मंत्री महोदय कुछ होमवर्क करके आते तो सवाल का जवाब ठीक से देते।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has replied about the difference between the rates prevailing here and the export market prices. He has not get the information about the retail price in the open market, and he is not in a position to give it.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have quoted the export price, and the home market prices depend upon the controlled variety and the non-levy, non-controlled variety. The latter fluctuates. Questions about the former can be satisfactorily and exhaustively answered by the Food and Agriculture Minister; you can ask them.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the hon. Minister what is the total foreign exchange obtained by the Government through the export of sugar during the last year and what are the estimates of foreign exchange to be earned in the coming year ? Along with this, will the Minister also please state whether his Ministry which is banking on a very rosy picture of exports has ever bothered about creating more capacity to produce white sugar which is required for export, and what steps are positively taken; otherwise it is only wishful thinking that sugar will be produced abundantly in this country?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : During 1973 our earnings by exporting sugar were Rs. 42.20 crores. Our earning by exporting sugar this year is likely to be Rs. 240—250 crores. But that depends. As I said, there is fluctuation. Commodity boom is at the top now. But whether it will remain there or fall down and how much price we will get are all contingent affairs. But we presume we will get

Rs. 240—250 crores by exporting sugar this year. I appreciate the last question of the hon'ble Member when he asked what are we doing about producing the best quality sugar. It is true that if we produce the best quality sugar, we can get at this time more than ₹600 per ton. In this country we do not produce that sugar. The type of sugar that we can produce in the country fetches at present a market price of Rs. 450, or Rs. 460 or, may be Rs. 475 per ton, and not more than that. Our capacity for production at the moment is 43 or 44 lakh tonnes. The actual production may be 40 lakh tonnes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Thirty nine lakh tonnes.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : may be 39 lakh plus. Steps are being taken by the concerned Ministry to increase capacity substantially. Our capacity, as I said is 430,000 tonnes. The number of licensed factories is 347. But our target, to raise the capacity by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan is 60 lakh tonnes . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Is it a dream or target?

* PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is the target called dream by some friends.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : In view of the fact that the whole sugar policy of the Government of India is, really speaking, an exercise in deception because there is deception all round—it is a deception that the sugarcane growers are being paid proper prices. It is a deception that 30 per cent. is left for the open market and 70 per cent is taken over; much more is left for the open market. It is a deception that the sugar requirements of the people are met. It is a deception that the sugar industry is going to be nationalised ultimately. The whole thing is a fraud and deception. One of the expressions of that deceptive exercises was the statement laid . . .

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी : जड़ मिथ्या है ।

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Now I am asking the question. One of the manifestations of

that fraud is the statement made by the hon. Minister that the high price realised in the market by the manufacturers percolates to the producer. Either he is ignorant or he is misleading the House. The Agricultural Prices Commission has fixed it at Rs. 8.50 per quintal or Rs. 8.5 per ton, this year, while it was Rs. 8 last year. You know, Sir, what the prices of fertilisers and other things are. Where is the producer getting the benefit? There is no bonus, no high price. Therefore, it is one of the biggest deception.

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA : In Madhya Pradesh it has been reduced from Rs. 11.30 to Rs. 9.50.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Some of the crushers are paying less. Are you prepared to put the sugar industry on a proper basis by regulating the prices at the sugarcane growers' level, by regulating the profits at the level of the manufacturers and by regulating the prices properly at the level of the consumers? Then only the question of export comes. It does not come before you regulate the sugar industry as a whole and ultimately nationalise the sugar industry.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I appreciate and share the concern of the hon. Member for the sugarcane growers. I will pass on the information to the concerned Minister.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : The hon. Minister said that 70 per cent of the sugar is given to the consumer at the controlled rate and the other 30 per cent has been reserved to be sold for the affluent class of the society at any price they like. In view of the fact that he himself has said that there is a boom in the export market in the world and our sugar is fetching more and more foreign exchange, may I know from him whether this 30 per cent, which he has reserved to be sold in the open market for the affluent class of people who can buy it at any price, will be diverted for the export market so that we can earn more foreign exchange for the country?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am very thankful for the suggestion. We will try to act accordingly.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : Sir, in view of the fact that too much of sugar is being used in our country in the preparation of sweets and beverages and people become victims of diseases like diabetes and other health hazards by the excessive use of these things, and also in view of the fact that refined sugar is more harmful and there is adulteration also these days, will the Ministry and the Government seriously take up the question of educating the people not to use more sugar so that the Government may have more sugar for export and they can also safeguard the health of the people?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I take note of this good suggestion of the distinguished hon. Member who has medical and ministerial background.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में चीनी के बड़े हुए दाम से जो लाभ मिल-मालिकों को होगा, क्या उसका कोई अंश मन्ना उत्पादकों को मिल सकेगा। श्रीमन्, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में सबा 12 रुपया पर क्विन्टल गन्ने का दाम तय हुआ है और वह पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में सबा 13 रुपया पर क्विन्टल तय हुआ है।

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : दोनों कम हैं।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, एक रुपए का फर्क इसलिए है कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में रिकवरी लोअर है। रिकवरी लोअर होने की जिम्मेदारी गन्ना किसानों की नहीं है, बल्कि मिल-मालिकों की है। उन्होंने अपनी चीनी मिलों को इतना खराब कर रखा है कि रिकवरी लो होती है। ये चीनी मिलें बहुत पुरानी हैं, उनकी कोई मरम्मत नहीं होती, मशीनें बदली नहीं जाती; क्योंकि उनके ऊपर राष्ट्रीयकरण का हौआ है। उसकी जिम्मेदारी गन्ना उत्पादकों की नहीं है, बल्कि मिल-मालिकों की

है, मगर उससे होने वाला नुकसान किसानों पर पड़ता है, मिल-मालिकों पर नहीं।

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : What is the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मेरा कहना यह है कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में जो लाभ आपको मिलेगा, क्या उसका कोई अंश किसानों को दिया जायेगा या नहीं।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I can only reiterate what I had already submitted that the Government will endeavour to see that the profits accruing to the mill owners percolate to the peasants.

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी : महापति जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह ठीक है कि देश के हित में अधिक से अधिक चीनी निर्यात करके विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की जाये। इसमें कोई आपत्ति की बात नहीं है। लेकिन वर्तमान में पोजीशन यह है कि आप विदेशों से अधिक से अधिक विदेशी मुद्रा तो प्राप्त कर रहे हैं, लेकिन देश के अन्दर चीनी के मिल मालिकों को जो आपने छूट दे रखी है, उससे वे बहुत फायदा उठा रहे हैं। राशन में लोगों को जो चीनी दी जा रही है वह पर्याप्त नहीं है और जो गरीब से गरीब लोग भी हैं उनको भी विवश होकर बाजार से चीनी खरीदनी पड़ती है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आप देश के हित में और इस देश की जनता के हित में आवश्यकतानुसार समान भाव पर और कम से कम कीमत पर चीनी सब को मिल सके, इसलिये आपने जो 30 परसेन्ट की छूट दी हुई है उसको समाप्त करके तमाम चीनी को गवर्नमेन्ट के कंट्रोल में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे ताकि यहाँ की जनता को समान स्तर पर और समान भाव पर चीनी पर्याप्त मात्रा में मिल सके? इसके अलावा आप जितनी मनमाने ढंग पर चीनी निर्यात करना चाहें करें, लेकिन उसका लाभ उत्पादकों को भी दें। इसलिये क्या आप इस प्रकार की पालिसी

बनाएंगे और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : As I have already submitted, 70 per cent of sugar is being sold at the controlled price and that takes care of the interests of people with low purchasing capacity. You will appreciate that the high boom in the sugar market may not last for a long time...

SHRI RABI RAY : Shri Chattopadhyaya does not understand these things...

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय वक्तेष्वन को तो समझ गए हैं, लेकिन उसका उत्तर देने की चेष्टा नहीं कर रहे हैं। मैं इन्वेस्ट नहीं होने दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will give the reply.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am not evading. I am answering to the best of my capacity and knowledge. The hon. Member himself agrees with me that sugar is one of the few items that has not suffered from depression all over the world market. Controlled price takes care of the difficulties of the people with poor purchasing capacity. We should deny ourselves some sugar. Otherwise we cannot export sugar. We have to strike a balance between incompatible and contradictory things and we are trying to reconcile between the interest of the poor people and the income we get from the export of sugar.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महोदय, मैंने जो प्रश्न किया था, उसका जवाब नहीं दिया गया है। मैंने यह पूछा था कि मिल मालिकों को 30 परसेंट के नाम पर जो छूट दी गई है और वे जिस प्रकार से गरीब जनता को लूट रहे हैं उस लूट को बन्द करने के लिये क्या सरकार समस्त चीजों को गवर्नमेन्ट के कन्ट्रोल में लाने की नीति पर विचार कर रही है और मैं यह भी

चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार का क्या मत है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us go to the next question. That is your suggestion.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : यह सजेसन नहीं है। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में स्थिति की जानकारी चाहता हूँ। यदि इनकी सारी चीजों को कंट्रोल में लेने की नीति नहीं है, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The hon. Member is very much aware that the really poor people of this country are more interested in gur than sugar. I can assure him that the suggestion he has already made will be passed on to my colleague.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : From the statement of the Minister it is clear that the machinery of production of sugar has almost reached its capacity and we are now having a production of 40 lakhs tonnes of sugar. So, it seems the machinery has reached the saturated point of production capacity. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government for expansion of the machinery and expansion of cultivation in the annual Plan?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have already submitted that according to our present Plan, our capacity of production will be expanded by 50 per cent.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I presume that sugar is being exported through STC. If so, what is the margin of profit and whether the profit earned by STC is being passed on to the consumers or to the producers?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is very difficult to pass on the profit in export to the consumers who happen to be foreigners.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वाणिज्य मंत्रालय और कृषि मंत्रालय में चीनी की नीति के सम्बन्ध में किसी प्रकार का कोई समन्वय है या नहीं है, क्योंकि आज स्थिति यह है कि गन्ने की कीमत कम मिलने से किसान इस प्रकार का निर्णय लेने जा रहे हैं कि गन्ना चीनी मिलों को न दिया जाये ? यदि चीनी मिल-मालिकों को गन्ना नहीं मिला तो चीनी का उत्पादन नहीं होगा और उस स्थिति में वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने अपने जो आंकड़े तैयार किये हैं उनमें कटौती हो जाएगी। इसलिये मैं आपके माध्यम से वाणिज्य मंत्री से यह जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे कृषि मंत्रालय से समन्वय करके गन्ने की इस प्रकार से कीमत निर्धारित करने के लिये नीति सम्बन्धी कोई संकेत देंगे और श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई ने जो एक सिद्धान्त निर्धारित किया था कि जितने रुपये मन चीनी उतने मन गन्ना, क्या यह सिद्धान्त आपको स्वीकार है ? क्या आप कृषि मंत्रालय से इस सम्बन्ध में समन्वय स्थापित करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, whatever we do particularly in respect of sugar, we not only do, but we also have to do, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and, therefore, my first response to his first question is this: Yes, there is consultation and there is constant co-ordination. But about the other things Sir, I have said that the operative part has to be decided and has to be done by taking the Agriculture Ministry also and I will pass on the suggestion, as I said earlier to the concerned Ministry

प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : श्रीमान्, व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब चीनी का निर्यात तो करेगा वाणिज्य मंत्रालय और पैसा कमाएंगे चीनी से वे तो चीनी का मूल उत्पादक जो किसान है उसको पूरी मदद नहीं मिलेगी तो चीनी मिलों को गन्ना कहा से आएगा ? जब आप उस पर लाभ कमाने जा

रहे हैं तो किसानों को भी उसमें से लाभ देने जा रहे हैं यह नहीं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The benefits will pass on to the producer.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I have already said that we are in touch with the Agriculture Ministry and. . . (Interruptions). . . Sir, after all, the export earning accrues to the nation and it is for the nation. Therefore, it is not that the STC is taking away the money. The money is coming to the country and it is improving our foreign exchange position. But, about the suggestion which he has given, I appreciate it; I think it was given by some other honourable Members also; I appreciate it and I will pass it on to the concerned Ministry who will take steps accordingly.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, I think the point here is that in the interest of the public it is necessary that it should be clarified by the Minister whether he has made any definite recommendation to the Agriculture Ministry or not. That is the point.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Yes, that is the point.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Saying that they are 'in touch' with them has no meaning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But the Agriculture Ministry will look into it.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : But he has to make the recommendation as the beneficiary. The question here from the Members on this side is whether he has made the recommendation or not. Has he made the recommendation or not ? This is the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister has agreed to pass on the suggestion to the concerned Ministry and then it can be discussed.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Sir, will the honourable Minister say that in view of the foreign exchange earnings, that is, export earnings, the export of sugar is important? I do not agree with the mere statement of the honourable Member, Dr. Ahmad, that the sugar policy and the export policy in relation to sugar constitute a deception. I would say that it constitutes a fraud on the country.

Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister as to why we are having a leaning in favour of export of things which are very much in short supply in this country? Sugar is very much in deficit in this country. I would also like to know from the honourable Minister why for some petrol which we may need for our luxury cars in the years to come we are having an agreement with Iran for the export of sugar. What is the amount of sugar that we are going to export to Iran?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, neither it is deception nor is it a fraud, but it is only a national requirement.

Sir, we have been exporting sugar to Iran amongst many other countries and in the coming three or four years, we propose to export about 5 lakh tonnes of sugar to Iran.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next question.

जीवन बीमा निगम में व्यय का अनुपात

* 153. श्री श्री सिंह शेखावत† :

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह :

श्री बीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा :

श्री डी० के० पटेल :

क्या बिना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जीवन बीमा निगम के कार्यकरण का व्यय 28 प्रतिशत है जब कि अमरीका और इंग्लैंड में बीमा कंपनियों का व्यय 16 प्रतिशत के लगभग है और भारत में डाक जीवन बीमा का कार्यकरण व्यय केवल 8 प्रतिशत है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस निगम के व्यय के अनुपात को कब करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

†[Expense ratio in Life Insurance Corporation]

*153. **SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT :**

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA :

SHRI V. K. SAKHALECHA :

SHRI D. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the working expenses of the Life Insurance Corporation amount to 28 per cent whereas the expenses of the insurance companies in U.S.A. and U.K. amount to about 16 per cent and the working expenses of Postal Life Insurance in India amount to only 8 per cent; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to cut down the expense ratio of the Corporation ?]

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. S. Shekhawat.

†[] English translation.