

पेट्रोल तथा रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य
मंत्री (श्री के० रघुरामैया) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHU-
RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DELAYED
START IN SUGARCANE CRUSHING
FACTORIES AND THE IMMINENT THREAT
TO SUGARCANE GROWERS AND CONSE-
QUENT UNEMPLOYMENT

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharash-
tra): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the
Minister of Food, Agriculture, Commu-
nity Development and Co-operation to the
situation arising out of the delayed start in
sugarcane crushing factories owing to the
dispute over remunerative prices of sugar-
cane and the imminent threat to sugar-
cane growers and consequent unemploy-
ment.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASA-
HEB SHINDE): Sir, the Central Govern-
ment fixes only the minimum price of
sugarcane payable by Sugar factories. For
1968-69, the same basic minimum price
was fixed as for 1967-68, viz., Rs. 7.37 per
quintal linked to a recovery of 9.4%. The
actual sugarcane price paid by the sugar
factories is dependent on the prices paid
by producers of *gur* and *khandsari*.

The date of commencement of crushing
operations is decided by individual sugar
factories on the basis of estimated cane
availability, the period of maturity of the
cane and incentives, if any. According to
the information received upto the 25th
November, 1968, 65 factories, out of 205,
have already commenced crushing opera-
tions for the 1968-69 season, as against
121 factories which went into production
last year upto the corresponding date.
In Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra, Pra-
desh, Mysore, Madras, Kerala and
Pondicherry, the number of sugar facto-
ries which have commenced crushing
operations is higher, viz. 60 as against

49 which commenced crushing operations
upto the corresponding date last year.

Crushing operations have been some-
what delayed in the Northern States main-
ly in U. P. and Bihar. The sugar factories
in West Uttar Pradesh generally start
crushing operations by about the middle
of November and those in East Uttar
Pradesh and North Bihar about a fortnight
later. Only 4 factories in West Uttar Pra-
desh and one factory in East Uttar Pra-
desh have so far gone into production,
as against 52 factories which went into
production upto the corresponding date
last year. No factory in Bihar has so far
gone into production.

The sugar factories in U. P., Bihar and
other Northern States have not commen-
ced production because no agreement has
yet been reached between the factories and
the growers as to the price to be paid for
sugarcane this year. Last year, due to
shrinkage of area under sugarcane and
drought conditions prevailing at the time
of sowing, the total supply of sugarcane
had declined. There was, therefore, intense
competition from *gur* and *khandsari*. The
high prices which were expected to prevail
in the free market and other concessions
given by the Government to the industry
enabled them to pay high prices for su-
garcane. As a result of the effect of partial
decontrol, the area under sugarcane has
increased and the total production of
sugarcane is larger this year. The excise
duty rebate which was granted last year
will not be available to the industry this
year and levy quantity to be secured by the
Government has been raised by 10%. As
a result of these factors the industry is
anticipating a steep fall in the price of sugar
in the free market as compared to last year.
Whatever may be the position, the price
paid to the grower should not be less
than the paying capacity of the factories
and the latter should not be determined
on an unduly low price expectation in
the free market.

As mentioned above, the minimum price
of sugarcane fixed by the Government is a
notional price and it should be possible for
the factories to pay this year prices higher
than the minimum price.

It is understood that negotiations are
going on between the industry and the
sugarcane growers and some settlement
may emerge shortly to the satisfaction of
both parties.

M R. CHAIRMAN : Kindly do not make speeches—I am saying this to all the Members.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I will straightway put four questions and get replies. There will be no padding to questions.

Sir, the position is very precarious and as has already been admitted by the hon. Minister, the factories are not going into production to that extent as they did last year. The basic malady seems to be that the prices offered to the sugarcane growers are not attractive this year because, as has been stated by the hon. Minister himself, with the levy sugar having been increased by 10 per cent and the excise rebate having been withdrawn, there is no prospect of the prices going up and the manufacturers paying an adequate price to the cane growers. In this connection, I may say that the Sen Commission evolved a sugar policy of fixing sugarcane prices. May I know from the Government whether, while they have accepted the Commission's Report, whether they have adopted the principles like better and more economic land use, a better pattern of sugarcane production and the best way in which it can be grown? And if they have accepted them, to protect the consumers what steps are they going to take strictly in view of the Sen Commission formula? That is number one. Secondly, the Government in their industrial policy have given raw material like iron and steel, cement and coal a fixed price which is the all-India price and which is applied to all the industries in the country. But why have the Government made a discrimination in a very important industry and in a delicate consumer item like sugar by giving different prices for different places in the country for sugar cane? This gives no incentive to the conscientious and efficient agriculturist because when he does not get a remunerative price, he does not put in that much effort and inputs as he will if he gets a remunerative price. So will the Government accept the principle of giving a uniform price of sugarcane in future?

Now, Sir, when the Planning Commission and the Government of India have announced from the house-tops that wherever raw materials are available indigenously and wherever the machinery for production is also available indigenously, there will not be any difficulty in issuing licences, may I know what politics is blocking

the Government from issuing more licences for the production of more sugar so that we can not only export more but we can make sugar available to the consumers in India at a cheaper price? I would like to have the views of the Government categorically on these three points.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member has put a number of questions. In regard to the first point raised by the hon. Member about sugarcane price, I have already mentioned that the minimum price which is announced by the Government is a notional price in the present context, because 30 per cent. of sugar is allowed to be sold in the free market by the sugar factories and, therefore, the factories should be in a position to pay a higher price than the minimum price fixed by the Government.

About the broader issue of land use, I think historically the sugar industry has developed in the North and we cannot disregard the fact that a large number of people, cane growers and workers, are dependent on the well-being of the sugar industry. So we have to see that the interest of the sugar industry in the North is also looked into. But at the same time, it has been the approach of the Government that in places where the land is more suitable for cane development, we are trying to expand the industry in that region.

Then about the sugarcane price, it is true that the price structure is different in different regions. But that has been done on the basis of the Tariff Commission's recommendations and the Sugar Enquiry Commission's recommendations. The Tariff Commission first looked into the matter in 1959 and then the Sugar Enquiry Commission again went into this. Now the conditions in the different parts of the country are different and even the sugar content is different in different regions. So, taking into consideration the interests of the sugarcane growers and the industry, the Tariff Commission and the Sugar Enquiry Commission recommended that the price structure in India should be determined on the basis of five zones; and that is why the prices of sugarcane are determined on the basis of five zones, as recommended by the expert bodies. At the same time, we are also attending to the other factor, that is, the price of sugarcane is also linked to the recovery percentage so that in areas where the sugar percentage is higher, the growers there get a higher price.

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde]

Then, about more licences, Sir, I think at the moment we have licensed about 44 lakhs tons of capacity and the problem of how much capacity should be licensed during the Fourth Plan is under the consideration of the Government. But at the moment, installed capacity is not the bottleneck which is coming in the way of increasing the production. In fact we have now 35 lakhs tons installed capacity in the country but, during the last year we produced only 22.5 lakh tons because of non-availability of cane. The present cane supplies are not adequate to sustain the present installed capacity.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, it is indeed strange that the Government should not give up the haphazard policies which are being pursued in spite of the various efforts of the Members of Parliament, in spite of the fact that commissions like the Sen Commission were appointed and even though they have given their recommendations. May I know from the honourable Minister whether these experts have not suggested that in India for better output we should decide the crop pattern? From that point of view, is it not true that U.P. and Bihar are perhaps the best producers today, not in the case of sugar cane, but in the case of the other foodgrains? Sir, the point is, if proper remunerative prices should be given to the farmers, whether they produce sugarcane or whether they produce wheat, they produce wheat, they should get the same remunerative prices. If that price structure is created in the country, then, there won't be this problem. Secondly, I would like to know from the Government if it is not a fact that the present prices being given for the sugarcane are not remunerative, that the cost structure has gone high and that because proper prices are not being paid sugarcane which is required for the sugar factories is not available. May I know from the Government what they are going to do in the matter? Thirdly, Sir, may I know whether the disparity in the price of sugar is there all over the country? What is the percentage of the disparity? Why should not the Government take some decision in connection with the disparity in the sugar prices? Fourthly, Sir, when there are enough potentials for export of sugar in this country, we can now indigenously manufacture the machinery required for the sugar factories. Why should not the Government go whole-

heartedly in granting more and more licences? Is it not a fact that in the meantime a decision was taken that if the farmers found their own share capital and if they would not require any loan from the Government, then they would be allowed to set up their own factories? When that decision was taken by the Government, why was that decision reversed and why is the Government itself now putting checks in the process of having better production of sugar in this country? Fifthly, Sir, may I know whether the Government has any plans of its own to see that we decontrol sugar in the country gradually and at the same time we protect the interests of the consumers and that we are also able to export sugar to foreign countries? What are the specific plans and programmes of the Government? By this hotch-potch arrangement here and there, we shall not be solving the problem of the sugar required for the country and within two or three years' time we shall be facing the same crisis which we faced three years ago. In this context I would like to have an explanation from the Government.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, again the hon. Member has put a number of questions. He has raised a wide issue of land use and crop pattern in this country. I think it is a much broader issue and I do not think it shall be possible for me to explain the entire approach of the Government. But broadly I may state, as I have already mentioned, that historically the sugar industry developed in the North. Thousands of workers are dependent on the existing sugar industry in the North. There are about 120 sugar mills in the Northern belt. Moreover, what is coming in the way of cane development in the North is the inadequate facility of irrigation. In fact in the North there is no irrigation facility for sugarcane both in U. P. and Bihar which are the important sugarcane growing States. We have been drawing the attention of the State Governments that they should give the highest priority to the programme of development of irrigation facilities for sugarcane so that it would be possible to have the higher productivity of cane in the North, so that the required raw material would be adequately available to the sugar industry and the sugar industry would have also stability.

As regards the remunerative prices of sugar, the entire approach of the Government is that in the interests of the farmers, they have to be protected. Even last year, the policy of partial decontrol was adopted..

Having that purpose in view the additional gains to be earned by the sugar factories from the sale of sugar should be passed on to the cane-grower. Naturally, all over the country, cane-growers have got a very high price last year as a result of the Government's policy.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : What about this year?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : This year also 30 percent of sugar is allowed to be sold in the free market and the very scheme has been evolved and adopted so that the main advantage should be passed on to the cane-growers. I have no doubt in my mind that as a result of this policy, farmers in India also would get remunerative and reasonable prices.

Then, Sir, about cane development, I have already referred to that.

About more licences, it is true that we had taken a decision that if the farmers were in a position to raise their own finances we wanted to encourage setting up of some factories. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : You are diplomatically evading the reply.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : But, Sir, in this country there is again the problem of regional development. We have to see that sugar industry is developed in a dispersed manner . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not come again into the picture.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Will the honourable Member allow me to continue uninterrupted?

(Interruptions)

What I was submitting was that I already expalined the position. The licensing capacity was limited. But even that is being examined and we feel during the Fourth Five Year Plan due consideration would be given to the cases pending from different States including the State from which the honourable Member comes.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Madras) : Sir, the question was with regard to the prices to be paid for the cane at the farmers' level. That is the crisis. That is the real position. The hon. Minister has admitted that in U. P. and Bihar the cane factories have not yet started crushing cane. That is the real crisis. So, I would like to know whether the Government would like the factories and the farmers to settle the matter between themselves or whether the Government will effectively intervene to see that this crisis is not there. That is the main point. For that the honourable Minister has not given any reply. Now, if the price is notional and if you want the farmers and the factories to settle, the crisis will get more intensified instead of getting resolved. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether it is not a fact that on account of not getting cane from the present standing crop, the question of raising a second crop—the winter crop—like wheat, etc. is not going to affect our agricultural development. That is number two. Number three is, supposing 70 per cent of sugar has been taken away by the Government as a levy, 30 per cent is left over to them—of course, the sugar price, as I know, is 1.55 per Kg., Rs. 155 per quintal—what price is normally expected to be paid for the other 30 per cent? At what price should the factory people sell the sugar so as to make sufficient profits for themselves and also what price should be paid to the farmer at that level of price for the levied sugar? This is what should be made clear by the hon. Minister so that the people, both the factory-owners as well as the farmers, can follow the advice of the honourable Minister. That is the main purpose for which I have put these questions. I would like the honourable Minister to enlighten me on these points.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as I was submitting, last year the Government did not come in the way of cane-growers getting a higher price. The minimum price fixed by the Government last year was Rs. 7.37 per quintal linked to a recovery of 9.4 per cent. This year also since the sugar factories are allowed to sell 30 per cent. of sugar in the open market, that should not come in the way of sugarcane-growers getting a higher price. But the cane prices are determined on the basis of competition from jaggery and khandsari manufacturers. As I was mentioning, the factories should be in a position to pay a reasonable price which should be in

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde] :

a position to satisfy the cane-growers. (Interruption) In different areas the sugar-cane prices are bound to differ; it is very difficult for me to give any specific figure because it will depend on competition from jaggery and khandsari.

About the second point raised by the hon. Member, I do not think this arises out of the Calling Attention Motion, though I can say something about it.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA (Andhra Pradesh) : May I know, Sir, whether. . .

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : भेरा वाईट आफ आर्डर है। एक व्यवस्था इस सदन में आलरेडी थी कि जब एक ही पार्टी के लगातार कई सदस्यों के नाम प्रस्ताव में आ जायेंगे तो आप विभिन्न पार्टियों के लोगों को बुलायेंगे। लेकिन चूंकि आज कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोगों के नाम आये हैं इस लिये आप उन्टे चल रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wanted to call some Members of the same Party and then call other Parties.

श्री राजनारायण : आपने व्यवस्था दी थी कि कालिंग अटेंशन में हम हर पार्टी के लोगों को बुलायेंगे और कल आप ने एक व्यवस्था दी है चैम्बर में कि एक बजे आटो-मेटिकली हम उठ जायेंगे। एक बजने में 5 मिनट रह गये हैं और चार कांग्रेस के मेम्बरों को आप बुला चुके हैं। दूसरी पार्टी के लोगों को आप नहीं बुला रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The thing is this: We had decided yesterday in the Business Advisory Committee that the House would close its discussions at 1 o'clock and start again at 2 o'clock. I want to make it clear that from tomorrow that rule will apply. Today it so happened that two important items were going on and I thought of finishing them, if possible. Therefore I shall give more time and see that every Party is represented in the discussion. Hereafter if one Party gives 6 names, I shall call 2 Members to ask for clarifications and then I will give chance to others.

श्री राजनारायण : पहले भी आप ने ऐसा ही कहा है। आप की यह कोई नयी व्यवस्था नहीं है। आप ने पहले भी यही व्यवस्था दी है जो कि आप ने अभी बताया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said I shall try. But hereafter I want to make the rule quite clear.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं भी यह निवेदन कर रहा हूं कि आप ने पहले भी ऐसा कहा है जो आज आप करने को कह रहे हैं। लेकिन आज कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोगों को ही आप बुला रहे हैं।

SHRI A. P. JAIN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir this is a very important question. I think the procedure you are following is correct, namely, you are giving opportunity to the persons who have given notice of it. I think we should sit longer today, after 1 o'clock, because other Members should be given some opportunity. I also feel very strongly about it, Sir.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Sir, I want to know whether the hon. Minister has received any information from Andhra Pradesh as to how many sugar factories have started functioning and how many have not yet started functioning. The Andhra Pradesh Government has fixed the price of Rs. 100 per quintal of sugarcane to be supplied; the factory owners, some of them, have not yet started crushing sugarcane and they are playing delaying tactics and the ryots are not getting remunerative prices; they are trying in another way to bring down the prices of sugarcane. So the ryots are hard hit there. That is why the Government of India can give some direction to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take immediate steps to see that crushing operations are started and the ryots are given remunerative prices as fixed by the Government.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, I have broadly mentioned the position how many factories have started functioning. About Andhra Pradesh in particular I will require notice. But broadly speaking, most of the co-operative sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh will go into production shortly on the advice of the State Government. The State Government has

Recommended a particular price and if my information is correct, they have recommended that Rs. 10 a quintal should be the price which should be paid by the factories. I hope the dispute in the case of other factories would also be settled soon and most of the factories in Andhra Pradesh would start functioning in the near future.

श्री सी० एल० वर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश) :

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो मिनिमम प्राइस आपने फिक्स की है शुगर केन को इससे क्या छोटे छोटे ग्राहकों नुकसान में नहीं रहते ! क्योंकि वे तो इस प्रकार से मिलों को अपना शुगर केन दे देते हैं। बड़े बड़े ग्राहकों उसको विट-होल्ड करते हैं और पिछले साल यू० पी० में 15 रुपये क्विंटल तक शुगर केन बिका जब कि ग्राहकों को आपने कम पैसा दिलवाया। तो मिनिमम प्राइस के बजाय क्या यह उचित न होगा कि आप प्रोडक्शन की कास्ट लगा कर हर एक जोन में उस किस्म की प्राइस फिक्स करें !

इसके अलावा मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो पार्लियामेंटरी फार्मर फोरम है उसने भी आपको रेकमेंड किया था कि मिनिमम प्राइस कम से कम दस रुपये पर क्विंटल होनी चाहिये। उस पर गवर्नमेंट ने क्या विचार किया !

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Members should understand the implications of what they say, because to raise the minimum price of cane means raising the price of sugar for the consumer and the prices of controlled sugar will have to be raised. In our country there is already a very high level of prices prevailing and we have got to realise the implications of any decision that we take. The minimum prices earlier were about Rs. 56 or Rs. 57 or Rs. 60 per ton. Now the price level has gone up to Rs. 73 to Rs. 84 per ton. This means a very substantial increase in prices has been given. In fixing the minimum prices the interests of the farmers have been taken into consideration by the Government. May I also submit,

Sir, that we consulted the Chief Ministers in regard to the formulation of our policy for the current year and most of the Chief Ministers recommended to us that the present policy of partial decontrol should continue? It was also suggested that 70 per cent. should be made available for controlled distribution in the interests of the consumers.

1 P. M.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार ने किस नीति की तह में अपनी मनमानी चलाने की ठान रखी है। चीनी और गन्ने के संबंध में सरकार को इसको कबूल करने में क्यों गुरेज है कि सरकार की कोई नीति नहीं है। सरकार समय समय पर चीनी मिल मालिकों की गोद में सोती रहती है। शायद इस विभाग के मंत्री जी नये हैं। आप पुराने हैं। आप उसको जानते हैं। टैरिफ बोर्ड की रपट ले लें और शुगर से संबंधित जितनी रपटें हैं उनको ले लें, एक सिद्धांत सर्वमान्य रहा है कि जै रुपये मन चीनी, तै आने मन गन्ना। एक उदाहरण मैं दे दूँ। आप उत्तर प्रदेश के राज्यपाल रह चुके हैं, आपको सब पता है। हमारे अजित प्रसाद जी पुराने खाद्य मंत्री यहां बैठे हैं और उनको भी सब पता है। 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 में 2 रु० मन गन्ना और साढ़े 34 रु० मन चीनी थी। बहुत थोड़ा फर्क है। जै रुपये मन चीनी तै आने मन गन्ना यानी 34 रु० मन चीनी और 32 आने मन गन्ना था। फिर आगे दाम घटे। साढ़े 30 रु० मन चीनी हो गई और 1 रु० 12 आने मन गन्ना हो गया। फिर दाम घटे। साढ़े 28 रु० मन चीनी हो गई और 1 रु० 10 आने मन गन्ना हो गया। यह मामला चलता चला गया और मैं समझता हूँ कि भाई अजित प्रसाद जी इसका समर्थन करेंगे।

श्री ए० पी० जैन : बिलकुल समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री राजनारायण : फिर 1952 का चुनाव आ गया। मैं समझता हूँ कि मेरी बात पर मेरे भाई मोहन धारिया जी बिगड़ जायेंगे। चन्द्र शेखर जी को मैं बहुत डरता हूँ। हमारी जो जानकारी है उससे किसी सरकारी पक्ष ने इन्कार नहीं किया है और वह यह है कि करीब 3 करोड़ रुपया कांग्रेस पार्टी ने चीनी उद्योगपतियों से चुनाव लड़ने के लिये लिया। फिर देखिये 1952 से मामला बिगड़ गया। 1952 से चीनी का कंट्रोल उठ गया और गन्ने की कीमत हो गई 1 रु० 4 आने मन, फिर 1 रु० 5 आने और 1 रु० 7 आने मन हो गई। 1958 में जब श्री अजित प्रसाद जैन खाद्य मंत्री थे, साढ़े 36 रु० मन चीनी, चीनी मिल के मालिक गेट पर देते थे। 6 साल तक चीनी पर कोई कंट्रोल नहीं था, लेकिन गन्ने पर कंट्रोल था। आगे फिर देखिए 1967 का चुनाव आया और 1967 के चुनाव के बाद 40 फी सदी चीनी छोड़ दी गई, 60 फी सदी पर कंट्रोल रहा। इसमें किसका हित है। इसमें हित किसान का है या उद्योगपतियों का है। अब किस नुक्ते नज़र से 30 फी सदी चीनी सरकार ने छोड़ी है और 70 फी सदी पर कंट्रोल रखा है।

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ (Mysore): I rise on a point of order. The Member is delivering a speech instead of putting questions. He is wasting the time of the House. This is not an election speech.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, आप इतना कह दीजिये कि श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी और मोहन धारिया जी इसको देख लें।

(Interruptions)

आज यहां बैठे बैठे मैंने यह हिसाब लगाया है। क्या सरकार यह हिसाब लगायेगी कि पहले साल 40 फी सदी तक छूट थी और साढ़े 20 लाख टन कुल चीनी पैदा हुई थी। 40 फी सदी बिकी 2 रु० किलो और 5 रु० किलो लगाइये 60 फी सदी चीनी। कुल हिसाब

करके आया 7 अरब 68 करोड़ और 60 लाख रु०। (Interruption) अगर हिसाब लगाया जाय तो 122 रु० मन चीनी पड़ी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly hear me. You put questions for clarification over the statement laid. You need not waste your time.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब 122 रु० मन चीनी का औसत पड़ रहा है तो किसान के गन्ने की कीमत उसी हिसाब से कम से कम 8 रु० मन क्यों नहीं होनी चाहिये। जै आने मन गन्ना तै रुपये मन चीनी के हिसाब से 8 रु० मन हमारी आज गन्ने की कीमत की मांग है।

श्रीमन्, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के गन्ना उत्पादकों के सम्मेलन में मैं गया था। वहां उत्पादकों ने यह प्रस्ताव किया था कि कम से कम 18 रु० क्विंटल गन्ने का दाम हो तब तो वे अपना गन्ना मिलों को देंगे वरना नहीं देंगे। आज हमारे हिसाब से 20 रु० क्विंटल गन्ने का दाम होना चाहिये। तो क्या सरकार हमारे हिसाब को मद्देनजर रखते हुए गन्ने का दाम तय करने जा रही है या नहीं?

श्री आर० पी० खेतान (बिहार) : आपके हिसाब से 56 रु० मन चीनी और 56 आने मन गन्ना होता है।

श्री राजनारायण : गलत है 122 रु० मन होता है।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : 122 रु० बोरे का दाम होता है।

श्री राजनारायण : 40 फी सदी चीनी पर छूट थी और 60 फी सदी पर कंट्रोल था और उसके हिसाब से चीनी का औसत दाम 122 रु० मन आ रहा है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, at the outset, with due respect to the hon. Member, I have to say that I am very sorry that he has tried to bring in politics and imputed motives to some political parties, which are not factual.

श्री राजनारायण : मोटिब्ज की बात नहीं है, यह तो वस्तुस्थिति है।

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : The Member has raised the basic issue whether the Government's policy is only in the interests of the factory owners. Not only I deny this and repudiate this statement of the Member but I wish to submit that our approach in this has been that the cane-growers' interest should receive priority attention from the Government. From that angle we are formulating our policy. The Member also raised some doubts about the price structure of sugar. He even quoted some figures and said that Rs. 5 per kilo was the price and on that basis he has made his calculations.

श्री राजनारायण : हमने साढ़े 7 रु० किलो चीनी दिल्ली में खरीदी है।

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : At Rs. 5 per kilo sugar was available for a fort-night or month but by and large the open market prices have been between Rs. 3.50 and Rs. 4 throughout the year.

श्री राजनारायण : आप जोड़ कर एन्नेज हिसाब लगाइये।

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : It is not factually correct to make statements based on the calculation of Rs. 5 per kilo of sugar being sold by the factories. Broadly the cost structure of sugar is like this. If we take the price of sugar at 100 per cent, 52.3 per cent. is the cost of cane, 22.1 per cent. is for Excise Duty and Cane Cess, the manufacturing expense including 12 per cent. return on capital constitutes 25.6 per cent. So this is broadly the cost structure. The prices of controlled sugar are not announced by the Government arbitrarily but they are based on well-evolved cost structures by the Sugar Enquiry Commission. As I have already made a reference, the determination of the price of sugar was referred to the Tariff Commission on previous occasions and even now the Tariff Commission is examining the price structure of sugar. I may add that the present crisis is only temporary and in the near future it should be possible for the North Indian sugar factories to go into production.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Members who have given notice about this are exhausted. I would allow Members to put each one question and the Minister will reply at the end. Mr. Jain.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : I am rather in a fix because the question is a very complicated one. Many issues are involved and if I make an introduction like Shri Rajnaraian, it will take a lot of time and I do not want to do it. However, I must say in all sincerity that the sugar policy of the Government of India for the last 3 or 4 years has been absolutely chaotic. The farmer has his own budget and it has been disturbed. I am one of the sugarcane growers and I am practically on the brink of ruin. I do not know what is going to happen to my sugarcane.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair]

Sir, I was saying that I am almost on the point of ruin. I do not know what is going to happen to my sugarcane.

The hon. Minister has referred to the price fixed by the Government as the nominal price. Government was not realistic and nothing has been done to fix a higher price so far.

Now this is a complicated question which cannot be discussed here. In fact, all the trouble has been created by the Government policy. There are three types of units using sugarcane. One is the ordinary *charkhi*. The other is the power crusher. And the third are the sugar mills. The *Charkhis* are there but they consume very little of sugarcane. The crushers have not been allowed to operate under the Government Order. And the mills are not operating. So we do not really know what to do with our sugarcane. Now I do not want to go into all the details; it is impossible for me to go into all the details, but may I enquire from the hon. Minister to answer this question here and now, whether the Minister for Food and Agriculture is prepared to call a meeting of persons interested in the sugarcane and the persons who know something about the sugar industry. My area has about 25 per cent of the sugar industry in India that is situated in western U. P., and I know something about it. Now this complicated question can be discussed only in a small meeting where we can have a free say for a fairly long time.

[Shri A. P. Jain]

Is he prepared to call a meeting of the persons representing different interests particularly the sugarcane-growers, today or tomorrow and take a decision to revise his policy?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : A constructive suggestion.

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Revision of the policy may take some time but in the meanwhile, as the situation stands today. . .

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Let my question be answered now, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : No, it will be a consolidated reply to all the questions put together one after another. This is the advice of the Chairman.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : It is up to you and I bow to the Chair. But there are so many questions . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : But the Chairman has already announced like that and the Minister is taking notes of the questions. Mr. Thengari

SHRI D. THENGARI : As the situation stands today, the hon. Minister is aware that this year. . .

SHRI A. P. JAIN : The hon. Minister has no objection to answer my question now, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : Now I have called the other hon. Member.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : What I beg to submit is that if he answers my question, many questions may not be put after that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : Well, I have only four names. Let those four questions be put. Mr. Thengari.

SHRI D. THENGARI : As the situation stands today in U. P. and Bihar, the sugar mills will be running for a lesser period this year, and the problem of the sugar mill workers is going to become very acute because, as the hon. Minister is aware, they get only a retaining allowance which is only a nominal wage. So their total pay packet this year is going to be less. They

have no other alternative employment. So what measures Government proposes to adopt in order to give relief to these sugar mill workers who will get lesser pay packets during this year.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : लास्ट इयर शुगरकेन का 15 रुपए क्विंटल तक दाम दिया गया था। इस साल सरकार 70 परसेंट लेगी और 30 परसेंट छोड़ दिया जायगा। लास्ट इयर चीनी 22 लाख टन बनी थी उस हालत में आपने 13 लाख टन की लेवी लगाई थी। इस साल 30 लाख टन तैयार होने की उम्मीद है। उसमें 70 परसेंट लेवी करते हैं तो 21 लाख टन चीनी आपके पास पहुंच जाती है। ऐसी हालत में 30 परसेंट का दाम मिल वालों को क्या मिलेगा और उनको यह भय है कि अगर हमने शुगरकेन ऊंचे में लिया तो हम लोगों को उसमें घाटा होगा। जब लास्ट इयर 13 लाख टन लिया तो इस साल भी 13 लाख टन लेकर बाकी को छोड़ दें तो मैं समझता हूँ कि 10 रुपये से ज्यादा किसानों को दे सकेंगे। क्या इस पर सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : I agree with Mr. Jain that the Government has no policy as far as sugar is concerned, particularly because, last year, in order to appease these industrialists they adopted this course of partial decontrol. And here, from the cost structure, the Minister has shown that the share of the Government and the industrialists is more than 35 per cent, that means whatever the consumer is paying, out of that controlled price which the consumer is paying, both these parties are sharing more than one-third. May I know from the Minister if it is not a fact that last year, when there was a deficit in sugar, they adopted the policy of partial decontrol? And now, when the Government agrees that there is more of production and the country is self-sufficient this year and can even have some exports, they are still continuing with the same partial decontrol of sugar. I can understand this; either you have complete decontrol of sugar and give some advantage to other parties to have some initiative, or clamp the control completely so that at least the interests of

the consumers and the growers will be safeguarded. But the present partial decontrol is no policy. I know the position and so I say the Minister made a wrong statement here. In the urban areas the consumers have been paying Rs. 4 or Rs. 3.50 on the average for the sugar produced in the last sugar season, but in the rural areas, everywhere we have been paying five rupees and six rupees and sometimes even seven rupees because, after all, your control measure works in Bhubaneswar or Cuttack, or here in Delhi; it does not work in the rural areas. So it is an absolutely false statement. And most of the decontrolled sugar went to the black market and the result was that the consumer had to pay a much higher price. Of course the agriculturist derived some advantage because of this partial decontrol. So may I know from the hon. Minister, Sir, in view of these facts, whether he is going to consider the entire cost structure, give some relief to the consumers in the shape of tax reductions and give some advantage to the growers even by raising the controlled price but bringing the entire sugar under the control system.

Secondly, I want to know this from the Minister. For a pretty long time now he must be having with him the representations made by the sugar mills in Orissa particularly the co-operative sugar factory, in Orissa. The Orissa Government has approached the Government of India so many times and said that the price paid to the co-operative sugar factory at Aska in Orissa is much lower in comparison with Andhra, Bihar and U. P. As a result, not only they are not able to pay a fair price to the growers, but the co-operative factory is itself running at a loss. May I know from the Minister if he will give an assurance that the price of Orissa sugar will be at least equal to the price given to Bihar, Andhra and U. P. so that the agriculturists can get a fair price, and the co-operative sugar factory can have a fair dividend.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): I was given certain names. That list is exhausted. Now the Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, Mr. Jain, I consider him to be a very responsible Member and a very knowledgeable Member. But he has made a statement that "as a cane-grower I am on the verge of ruin." I am really surprised by this statement. May I say that I am also a cane-grower?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: You are a cane grower in Maharashtra; I am a cane-grower in U. P. And that makes all the difference.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: But may I tell you—and even the hon. Member will agree—that the cane-growers of western U.P. got such a cane price last year as never in the history of cane and the sugar industry the Indian farmers had received. (Interruptions). It was up Rs. 16 a quintal and Rs. 17 a quintal in some parts of U. P.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA): What is your stand? Because he got a good price last year, this year he can get any price?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I am not mentioning that.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am talking about the sugarcane this year because they are not allowing the *khandsari* units to work; they are allowing only the *charkhi* to work. And the sugar mills are not working. Therefore, my sugarcane is standing in the field.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I want to bring to your notice that the problem now is exactly what you have indicated. Last year, because the farmer in U.P. got some good price, the Government of India has made a deliberate attempt to see that the farmers are put to hardship, because *khandsari* was not allowed to be exported out of the State in spite of the repeated requests from the *khandsari* manufacturers and the Government of U. P. Again, the crushers are not allowed to function up to December. And these policies of the Government of India do not at all frighten the sugar industrialists who are out to ruin the sugar industry in the western part or in the whole of the State of U. P., because they do not modernise their factories and they only want to squeeze the cane-growers, and the Government of India is just helping these industrialists.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA): The Minister is in possession of the floor and he shall complete his answer.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, he should assure the sugarcane growers in U. P. and Bihar that they will get remunerative prices and the Government will intervene to see that they get it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: At the outset may I corroborate the sentiments expressed by Mr. Dharia? The entire approach of the Government towards the canegrowers in U. P. and Bihar and in fact in other places also is that they should get really remunerative and reasonable prices. This has been our approach and the policy which we have formulated is with that intention.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is the use of making pious policy statements that they will get this, that they will get that?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA): Please, let him continue.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is not a pious statement.

SHRI A.P. JAIN: We are told about the notional price but we are not told about the actual price.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA): May I request hon. Members to behave with grace? Members have all put their questions and this sort of running interruptions will not permit the Minister to complete his reply. Let us hear the complete reply of the Minister.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: It is because of the gracious policy of the Government.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the hon. Member has made a suggestion to convene a meeting of the representatives of the canegrowers. Now, as I was explaining, we had recently a Chief Ministers Conference where we consulted all the State Governments and the policy which has been formulated and which has been announced by the Government is based on the general consensus that emerged in the Chief Ministers' Conference. Apart from that we are constantly in touch with the hon. Members of Parliament here. The hon. Shri Jagjivan Ram or myself will have no objection if any hon. Member wants to discuss this problem with us.

Then, Sir, Shri Thengari raised a point and asked if the workers' interests are not likely to be affected because of the shorter duration. As I have already mentioned while replying to the call attention notice, the normal pattern of starting of the sugar

factories in northern India is that some factories go into production in the first part of November and some in the latter part. There has been some delay in Western U. P. and other parts but in Bihar and Eastern U. P. usually the factories start production only in late November or early December. The overall duration is not likely to be affected; if the cane availability is there the factories instead of closing early might run for a little more time in the month of March or April. So the general duration is not likely to be affected because of the late starting of the factories. That is my general impression at this stage.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : The cane is suffering from certain diseases and pests and they are drying up while the growers are not allowed to give their cane to the crushers and the crushers are not allowed to function in the Western U. P. in spite of the natural calamity and the Government of India knows it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Shri Khaitan asked what would be the price of sugar when 30 per cent of the sugar is to be sold in the free market. Now the hon. Member is unduly taking a very depressed view of the situation. He thought that the price of sugar in the free market would be depressed. I do not subscribe to that view because our population is so vast that even if 18, 19 or 20 lakh tons are made available to the consumers through controlled distribution there will still be demand for sugar in the open market and the price of sugar is likely to remain at a reasonable level and the factories will be able to pay a good price to the canegrowers.

Mr. Banka Behary Das raised a number of issues. While complaining that our policy is in the interests of the factory owners he made a statement that the sugar factory in Orissa was not getting adequate price for sugar. It is a very interesting statement.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : No; I referred to the price differential between Andhra, Orissa and Bihar, and not. . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Mr. Das, may I tell you for your information that the prices for instance in Maharashtra, Gujarat and a number of other States are much lower than the sugar price in Orissa? I am only mentioning this because my hon. friend said that the policy

formulated by the Government of India was only to protect the factory owners. That is not correct and I stoutly refute that sort of statement.

I also wish to tell hon. Members that we are not going to take complete control of sugar. This has been made amply clear on previous occasions also and I wish to reiterate the same view now.

Then, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekhar raised an issue and asked 'Why not allow export of *khandsari* from U.P.' May I say that we do not come into the picture at all? It is really the State Government which can take this decision. As for setting up of crushers etc., these are reserved zones and the normal pattern that has been accepted even when popular Ministries were there is that in these reserved zones crushers will not be allowed to operate up to a particular date. This is not a new policy which has been adopted by the Government of India; this is a policy which has been followed for number of years. As far as the non-reserved zones are concerned, there is no restriction whatsoever for setting up crushers etc. for the manufacture of *khandsari* or *jaggery*.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, NEW DELHI AND RELATED PAPER

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 18 of the All India Institute of Medical Science Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, for the year 1966-67, together with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2283/68].

THE U. P. SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. ST-3601/X-902(8)-65, dated the 5th August, 1968 (in English and Hindi), under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the U. P. Sales Tax Act, 1948,

publishing the U.P. Sales Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1968, together with a statement giving reasons for delay in laying of notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2288/68].

THE DELHI ADMINISTRATION NOTIFICATION

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: Sir I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Delhi Administration Notification No. F4(125)/68-Fin. (G), dated the 7th November, 1968 (in English), under sub-section (4) of section 26 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2287/68]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (in English) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) Notification S. O. No. 3834, dated the 2nd November, 1968.

(ii) Notification G. S. R. No. 1964, dated the 9th November, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2286/68 for (i) & (ii)]

I. THE CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES EXPORT DRAWBACK (GENERAL) HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST AMENDMENT RULES, 1968

II. THE CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES EXPORT DRAWBACK (GENERAL) HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND AMENDMENT, RULES 1968

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (in English) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, and section 38 of Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) Notification G. S. R. No. 1963, dated the 9th November, 1968, publishing the Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Drawback (General) Hundred and Twenty-first Amendment Rules, 1968.