

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether the diseases affecting fruits in this area are of any special type or are they common to other areas also where these fruits are grown?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Eight projects were formulated under the All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Fruits for guava, mango, banana, citrus fruits, grapes, papaya, pine-apple and apple. They have been formulated for implementation under the Fourth Plan. They were formulated by an expert committee and the experts were horticulture experts and it was constituted by the I.C.A.R. Various peculiar features of the fruits being grown in different parts of the country were taken into consideration when these specific projects were sanctioned.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Government consider fixing a research centre in Gujarat also looking to the large area that is covered by these fruits in that State? Why have two centres for Maharashtra alone? Why not have one for Gujarat also?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The matter was considered only on the basis of agro-climatic factors. It was not considered on the basis of States as such. The point that the hon. Member referred to I will have to examine.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, may I...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, counting up to three is elementary arithmetic, Mr. Shah.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know, Sir, whether any such project has been set up in Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I will require notice, Sir.

REMOVAL OF SUBSIDY ON FOODGRAINS

*97. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: 158 RS.—2.

(a) whether Government have recently withdrawn the subsidy on food-grains issued from the Government stocks; and

(b) if so, what will be the saving in expenditure as a result of the withdrawal of subsidy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government is continuing to subsidize the sale of foodgrains issued from its stocks. As a result of the slight revision in issue prices effected in November and December 1966, the expenditure on subsidy is likely to be reduced by about Rs. 21 crores.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : जो सबसिडी दी जा रही है, वह किन किन प्रांतों में दी जा रही है और कितने कितने रुपये की दी जा रही है ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is not related to the State as such, Sir. It is related to the particular foodgrains. For instance in the case of wheat the economic cost is Rs. 62.93 while the present issue price is Rs. 55. So the subsidy comes to Rs. 7.93 per quintal. For milo the economic cost is Rs. 52.68 and the present issue price is Rs. 40. So the subsidy element comes to per quintal Rs. 12.68. For rice (coarse) the economic cost for both imported as well as for internally procured variety is Rs. 90.36 while the issue price comes to and varies from Rs. 68-19 to Rs. 81 per quintal. So the subsidy element comes to Rs. 9-36 to Rs. 22-17 per quintal. For maize the economic cost is Rs. 60-86 and the present issue price is Rs. 45. So the subsidy element comes to Rs. 15-86 per quintal.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : बिहार में और उत्तर प्रदेश में ड्राउट होने के कारण क्या वहां उनकी प्राइसेज में कुछ कमी की जायगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:

They are all-India prices and they apply to all the States. And as regards need, as I have already submitted gratuitous relief is already provided for all needy persons.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know if it is a fact that the Government has withdrawn 'the subsidy for the rationed rice that is distributed in Kerala? Though they had withdrawn the subsidy under the previous regime the Governor continued to give at the current price but now the Government has insisted that the price should be raised. Has the Government asked all the States to raise the price of rationed grains, rice or wheat or anything and if so, instead of raising the price and charging higher price from the consumer would the Government consider subsidizing the balance so that the price is not raised and so that the people, particularly in Kerala, are not put to great hardship and difficulties?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: In this respect Kerala is not made an exception. It is an all India policy; it was discussed in one of the Chief Ministers' Conferences. This subsidy element has been so high that during the year 1966-67 the total amount of subsidy comes to Rs. 130 crores. The gap between the economic cost of imported food grains and the price of locally procured foodgrains was so wide that it was suggested that it should be narrowed down. As a result of this policy the prices have been increased generally and it is not as if Kerala has been made an exception in this case.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : यह जो गेहूँ के बारे में आपने जो दर बताई वह इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट के बारे में बताई है। गेहूँ देश में खरीदा जाता है, उस पर भी बेचते समय क्या किसी प्रकार की सब्सिडी दी जा रही है या नहीं? उस पर अगर कोई सब्सिडी नहीं दी जा रही, तो क्या सरकार भर्त्सिडी न देने के फैसले

के कारण ही जो गेहूँ की परचेज प्राइस है, उसको नीचे रखने पर वह मजबूर हो रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: As far as the indigenous wheat is concerned, we are not paying any subsidy but we are paying subsidy on imported wheat because if we did not do that then the price would go up and the consumers and the poorer sections would be adversely affected. As far as the other part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, as to whether we should not pay a little higher remunerative price to the farmers, that has been our approach and we are consulting from time to time the Agricultural Prices Commission in regard to that.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मेरा सवाल यह था कि यह आपने जो यहां देश में गेहूँ खरीद कर ज्यादा पैसा दिया, तो क्या उसको भी सब्सिडी देकर फेयर प्राइस शाप्स पर कम दाम में विक्रवाने का आपका विचार या नीति है अथवा नहीं ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I have already submitted that it has not been, our policy to subsidise locally! procured grains like wheat.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: May I know the price of wheat in America and the economic cost worked out here for that?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I have not got the figures about the prevailing prices in U.S.A. but I may say for the information of the hon. Member that as far as the economic cost of imported wheat is concerned, after devaluation it comes to about Rs. 66 per quintal.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, क्या सरकार ने अब भी—क्योंकि अब फसल आ रही है और बहुत सी राज्य सरकारें ग्रेन प्रोक्योरमेंट की स्कीम चलाने जा रही हैं—किसानों से किस रेट पर गल्ला खरीदा जाय, इसका कुछ फैसला किया है, और किसानों से जिस रेट

पर गल्ला खरीदा जाय, उससे कितना ज्यादा मुनाफा लेकर वह गल्ला कन्ज्यूमर्स को मिले, इसके बारे में कोई योजना बनाई है और यदि नहीं, तो क्यों नहीं और यदि हां, तो वह क्या है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The procurement prices are determined or fixed by the State Governments in consultation with the Centre and they vary from State to State but as I have already submitted our policy is to see that the farmers get remunerative prices and the Agricultural Prices Commission which is an expert body with which eminent economists are associated advises the Government of India and on that basis we usually determine the procurement price.

*93. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols... infra.]

CULTIVATION OF LONG STAPLE COTTON IN PUNJAB

*99. SHRI NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Agriculture has found out a certain variety) of long staple cotton in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what is the variety and where it was being cultivated in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) Yes.

(b) LL 54' an extra-long-staple variety of America was developed in Punjab and released in 1958 for cultivation in the Western Districts of Punjab. The variety could not become popular due to its susceptibility to the blackarm disease. Recently another variety, A 231, has been evolved and is expected to be released within a couple of years on completion of the field trials.

श्री नरिन्दर सङ्केत बरार : १० साल
कैसे एरुसे से आप का अनालिसिस और रिसर्च
बाह्य रहा है - हम करोड़ों रुपया बाहर
से अम्पोर्ट करने में खर्च करते हैं -
किया वजह है कि आज तक आप का
डिपार्टमेंट हमें कोई अच्छी वरान्टी
नहीं दे सका और इस की खातिर
हमारा करोड़ों रुपया इस तरह जाया होता
रहा है - इस पर भी बीस साल से आप हमें
अच्छी वरान्टी नहीं दे
सके -

†[श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बरार : बीस साल के
असें से आपका अनालिसिस और रिसर्च हो
रहा है, हम करोड़ों रुपया बाहर से इम्पोर्ट
करने में खर्च करते हैं, क्या वजह है कि आज
तक आपका डिपार्टमेंट हमें कोई अच्छी
वेराइटी नहीं दे सका और इसकी खातिर
हमारा करोड़ों रुपया इस तरह जाया होता
रहा है, इस पर भी बीस साल से आप हमें
अच्छी वेराइटी नहीं दे सके ?]

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I quite understand the anxiety of the hon. Member that we should really succeed in introducing long staple varieties in the country but after all it depends on research and our research scientists are really trying hard to see that better varieties are made available. In some other parts of the country, though not in Punjab, we have succeeded in, introducing long staple varieties.

SHRI NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: What I say is there should be some check on the research side. It is so slack and we are suffering a great deal because of that. I request that some real effort should be made.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is a suggestion worth examining.

t[] Hindi translation.