

बिषय में विचार हो रहा है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर एक ट्रेक्टर फैक्टरी लगाई जाय।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Is the Minister aware that we are subsidising sugar for export and foreign exchange earned by sugar is being spent for importing artificial silk? May I know whether he is aware that this very Government has been importing artificial silk in lieu of sugar? The Minister says that there is no foreign exchange available for tractors. What is the criterion for fixing up the priorities and whether the tractors get priority over artificial silk or artificial silk gets priority over tractors in the matter of foreign exchange earned at the cost of sugar?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : This is a very large question.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Small question.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I may be given time.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : It is a basic question

SHRI S. D. MISRA : It is a fact that the agricultural sector earns over fifty per cent. of to-day's foreign exchange in the country. Out of Rs. 850 crores, nearly Rs. 450 crores or even more is earned by the agricultural sector. Not only sugar, sugar is very marginal, but tea, jute, coffee and other things earn more. It is also a fact that foreign exchange is required not only for agriculture but for the setting up of industries which also help agriculture. There are industries which are required and agriculture cannot be built up without the aid of other industries and *vice versa*. The question as to what is being done to the silk industry should not be put to me but to the Commerce Ministry. About how much is to be given to the silk industry and how much to the others, I do not know. I have not got the information but I would also strongly urge that we are ourselves very anxious about it and even in the Fourth Plan we have included it and the plan has been circulated—there is a new book 'Strategy for Agriculture' circulated—under which we are trying to import over Rs. 1,000 crores worth of agricultural and fertilizer implements and this will be two or three times more than what we have

done in the Third Plan and we hope that we will be able to get this foreign exchange. That is all I can say.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Perhaps I was not able to make my question clear. The Government of India has entered into a barter deal under which they have exported sugar and imported artificial silk. It is not that foreign exchange has been earned and something has been given to artificial silk and machinery. By exporting sugar they have imported artificial silk. How far this barter deal is justifiable that by exporting sugar at five times subsidy you are importing artificial silk and why should not the Agriculture Ministry go to the Commerce Ministry and say: 'You must import, by entering into a barter deal, tractor machinery'? That is my question.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Besides import of agricultural products in which the Ministry of Agriculture is very much interested—and we are pressing our demand—we cannot dictate to the Commerce Ministry as to what they should import because there are other barter deals. As regards our own requirements, we are constantly pressing for the imports.

गन्ने का मूल्य

*506. श्री महाबीर दास : क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने भारत सरकार से गन्ने का मूल्य बढ़ाने की सिफारिश की है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या गन्ने के मूल्य में की गई वृद्धि सम्पूर्ण देश में लागू होगी अथवा केवल उत्तर प्रदेश में; और क्या सरकार गन्ने के मूल्य में वृद्धि कर चुकी है या करने वाली है?

†[SUGARCANE PRICE

*506. **SHRI MAHABIR DASS :** Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has made a recommendation to the Government of India for

† [English translation.

raising the price of sugarcane; and

(b) if so, whether the increase in the price of sugarcane will be applicable throughout the country or only to Uttar Pradesh and whether Government have since increased or propose to increase the price of sugarcane ?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

† [खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री अन्ना साहेब शिन्दे) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Is it a fact that the Government has decided not to increase the price of sugarcane ? If so, may I know why in view of the fact that the excise duty on sugar has been increased and in view of the fact that the price of sugarcane is not uniform throughout the country, the Government should not consider the desirability of increasing the price of sugarcane ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Only last week a statement regarding the Government policy about sugarcane price was made in this House and it was explained at that time that the Government have decided to continue the same price that was in force during the current year and last year. As far as the question raised by the hon Member that as a result of the increase in excise duty why sugarcane price cannot be increased is concerned, that has no relevance because excise duty is not taken into consideration while determining sugarcane price. The sugarcane price is declared under the Sugarcane Control Order. Among the various factors which are taken into consideration, the cost of sugarcane is one and the return to the grower from alternate crops, the general trend of prices and the availability of sugar at fair prices, all these are taken into consideration. It is on that basis that the sugarcane price is determined. As far as the variations in price in the various regions are concerned, as the price

is based on sugar percentage from the cane, that is inevitable. That principle had been accepted three or four years back and that is the most scientific principle as far as the determination of sugarcane price is concerned. And may I say for the information of the hon. Member that in respect of all agricultural commodities, in fact, the prices are determined on the basis of quality.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : As the Government has lately announced, the price for coming years for sugarcane is Rs. 2.

SHRIMATI ANIS KIDWAI : It is being sold in the villages for Rs. 2.50

SHRI C. D. PANDE : We wish that it should be Rs. 2.50, but for the present the price announced for future is Rs. 2 per maund, and there is the additional price that will be paid as far as recovery is concerned. If the quantum of sugar recovery is more than 10.4 per cent., then there will be an additional price paid. Now this 10.4 is very high recovery, I think. Ninety per cent of the sugarcane producers in this country will not be in a position to get the benefit of the higher recovery. Therefore, will Government consider it necessary or desirable to reduce this 10.4 to 10, so that others may also get the recovery benefit ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I think the fear of the hon. Member is not correct, because the price Rs. 5.36 per quintal, or Rs. 2 per maund is for 10.4 per cent recovery and below, that means, even if the recovery is lower than 10.4, the same price is paid.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : What I wanted to tell you is that 10.4 per cent is decidedly high recovery, which is not possible of attainment by 95 per cent of the producers in the whole country, because, for example, in U.P. or Bihar, there are few factories where there is the average recovery of 10.4. Therefore, these cane-growers will never get the benefit of the higher recovery benefit, so that I wanted that the ceiling of 10.4 fixed should be reduced, so that a larger number of producers may get the benefit.

MR CHAIRMAN : Why not ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : May I repeat that even if the recovery is 10 or

† [Hindi translation.

below 10, the price is the same as is being paid for 10.4? So the contention of the hon. Member does not survive.

श्री रामकमार भुलावका : क्या माननीय मंत्री जो यह बतलाने का कृपा करेंगे कि बिहार, यू० पा० साउथ और मध्य प्रदेश में गन्ने में कितनी रिकवरी हुई और उसके कितन प्राइस है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I think it would be very difficult for me to give the prices factory wise. Price are announced factorywise in due course of time, which are based on the recovery which had been available during the previous season. But as far as the general statement is concerned, I may say for the information of the hon. Member that the prices of sugarcane in regard to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were practically on the same level, because the recovery in these regions is usually at about 10 per cent, sometimes slightly below 10 per cent, in some cases slightly higher than 10 per cent. So nowhere in this region the price is less than Rs. 2 per maund.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : It is stated that the minimum price of Rs. 2 is fixed for a sugar content of 10.4 per cent and below. But if this 10.4 per cent is reduced, those who will show more sugar content above that reduced level, will get more—that was the question. Why should it not be reduced when 95 per cent of the producers grow such sugarcane that does not contain 10.4 or more? That is my first question. Secondly, Sir, you have stated that you have fixed the price of sugarcane on sugar content. May I know on what basis you have fixed the price of sugar which is being sold in the market, because it differs from State to State? And why so?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, what should be the basis of recovery per cent for determining sugar price was also gone into by an expert body and I have already referred to the Sen Commission i.e. the Sugar Enquiry Commission. And, in fact, they said that the base should be 9.4 per cent recovery. But that would have adversely affected U.P. and other regions all over

the country. Out of the total of 198 sugar factories in the case of 157 sugar factories the price of sugarcane would have been reduced. In U.P. 71 factories out of 72 would have been adversely affected. And in Bihar 28 factories out of 29 would have been adversely affected. That means, in that region sugarcane-growers would have got less price if this formula, as was suggested by the Sen Commission, would have been accepted.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Now my question needs to be explained fully. The price of sugarcane has been fixed at Rs. 2 for a sugarcane which yields 10.4 per cent recovery or below, say, 9 or 8 per cent;—that does not matter. My question to the Government is : Why does Government make recovery criteria so high as 10.4 when almost 95 per cent of the producers in the country do not get the benefit of the higher recovery? The result is that people who grow a cane which yields 10 per cent or 9.8 or 10.2 or 10.3, do not get the higher benefit. In that they get less. Of course, they all get Rs. 2; Rs. 2 is the minimum for any quality of cane, but 10.4 is too high a ceiling if the benefit arising out of higher recovery is to pass on to a larger number of growers.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as this point which has been raised by the hon. Member is concerned, in fact there has been a demand from certain regions, for example, Maharashtra and other areas for bringing this 10.4 per cent base to 9.4 per cent and, as a result, perhaps in these regions they think that they would benefit from that, but even if we try to raise sugarcane price that way, the cost of sugar would be affected, and then it would be very difficult for Government to make sugar available to the consumer at a reasonable price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dharia.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : My second part has not been replied to.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : May I know, Sir, what is the criterion applied by the Government while fixing the price of sugarcane, so that it will be remunerative for the producers, and may I further know whether the same criterion is applied to the farmers who produce food-grains and cereals?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Sir, it appears from the actual acreage that has been cultivated in India that the sugarcane acreage, as compared to other crops, is relatively going up. That shows that the prices which are received by the sugarcane-growers are remunerative. Had it not been like that, the acreage under sugarcane would have gone down. Only during the last one year the sugarcane acreage has jumped up from 59 lakhs to 64 lakhs approximately.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU : Is the Government aware that in order to increase the recovery content from, say, 9.4 to 10.4, certain inputs will be required, or more labour will be required? If he is going to get the same remunerative price for the level of 9.4 and 10.4 per cent., there is no incentive for the farmer to reach a higher level unless and until the Government thinks that the majority of the farmers who have got a lower yield should be encouraged to get to 10.4 per cent at least. Therefore, will the Government consider lowering the limit of 10.4 to a lower figure so that there is incentive to the farmer to produce a better quality of sugarcane?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question has been put by Mr. Pande and Mr. Deokinandan Narayan.

AMENDMENT OF PANCHAYATI ACT IN DELHI

*507. SHRI G. M. MIR : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Administration has proposed to amend the Panchayati Act with a view to raising the minimum educational standard required for Village Pradhan; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Delhi Administration has proposed an amendment to the Delhi Panchayat Raj Act, 1954, laying down disqualifications for Pradhans of Gaon Panchayats. The amendment seeks to provide,

inter alia, that no person shall be entitled to be, or remain, a Pradhan of a Gaon Panchayat if he is unable to read and write Hindi or Urdu.

(b) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI G. M. MIR : What would be the minimum qualification which would be fixed for the village Pradhan?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have already stated that he should be in a position to read and write.

SHRI G. M. MIR : How many village Pradhans in Delhi are literate at present, Sir? May I know from the hon. Minister?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : At present statistics are not available with me. If due notice is given I may try to collect them.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : May I know, Sir, if there is no literacy qualification fixed for M.L.A.s and M.P.s, why should this be fixed for the poor Sarpanch?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I quite appreciate the point which has been raised by the hon. Member, but we find from our experience that the Pradhans especially in the Delhi Administration area are required to supervise a number of administrative and civil functions, as the framing of the budget, recovery of taxes, maintenance of accounts, explanation of various development schemes for the benefit of the villages, and in certain cases when a matter came up for enquiry and investigation, it turned out that many of the Pradhans stated that they executed the document without knowing the contents of it. So taking into consideration especially the area in which these Panchayats are located, Government thinks that it would be worth while if this minimum qualification is prescribed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

'WORK TO RULE' BY WORKERS OF AIR INDIA

*493. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING and TOURISM be pleased to state :