

SHRI D. THENGARI: In this respect, are we securing co-operation regarding technical know-how from any other country like France?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir. We are making every endeavour to obtain the best technical know-how and only recently a Seminar was held at Jodhpur where experts from all over the world were invited to give their views on it.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know what will be the functions of this Desert Development Board and how the functions and duties of this Board and those of the State Governments in the particular field in which this Board operates will be adjusted, because most of the work of the Desert Development Board really concerns the powers and duties of the State Governments?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the actual work that will be done by the Board will be to keep under review the preparation of schemes for the development of desert areas, to execute such schemes through the State agencies, to remove administrative and financial bottle-necks holding up the progress of these schemes and to ensure that the desert areas of the country receive the attention that they deserve.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know what is the best expert advice in the eyes of the Government? The Minister said that a Seminar was held to find out the best expert advice. What was the result of that Seminar and what, according to the Government, is the best expert advice?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, experts from all the countries which had been dealing with the problem of controlling deserts and making use of the deserts, all those experts were invited and they had a very full and frank discussion for a number of days and the recommendations of that Seminar are now receiving the attention of the Government—how best to implement them.

श्री बेबी सिंह : राजस्थान का रेगिस्तान सैकड़ों मील लम्बा है। सरकार ने कहीं एक मील का टुकड़ा बनाया है, कहीं आधा मील का, और समझते हैं कि इतने छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों से सैकड़ों मील का रेगिस्तान रुक जायगा ?

श्री सभापति : जायद आप यही समझते हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैंने यह तो नहीं कहा कि रेगिस्तान रोक दिया गया, लेकिन जो हमारे तजुर्बत हैं उनसे पता चलता है कि रेगिस्तान कोई आगे नहीं बढ़ रहा है। इसके अलावा जो मूविंग सैंड इयून्स हैं उनको स्टैबिलाइज करने का प्रोग्राम है। उस पर कुछ तजुर्बे किए हैं वो पुर-उम्मीद हैं।

NEW SUGAR FACTORIES

*416. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD & AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many new sugar factories have recently been licenced and at what capacity;

(b) how many of them are being established in the co-operative sector; and

(c) how many of them are likely to start production in 1965 and in 1966?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Letters of intent have been issued in August, 1965 for the establishment of 9 new sugar factories in different States with a daily cane-crushing capacity of 1250 tonnes each.

(b) Eight.

(c) None.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know how many applications for licence were received from the private sector and how many from the co-operative sector?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The number of applications received both for expansion and for the establishment of new factories is about 246. But I will not be able to give the break-up, how many from the private sector and how many from the co-operative sector. The total number for new factories, of course, is about 122.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Is there any criterion for allowing these private owners or co-operatives to set up these factories? How do you decide it?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The general policy is to have only cooperative factories hereafter.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: When all these new factories are set up and when they go into production, may I know whether the Government will decontrol sugar?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Sir, it will take about a couple of years for these factories to go into production. It is not until they go into production immediately a licence is granted. It will take about two years for them to go into production.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि जितनी फैक्टरीज हैं और उसके अलावा जिन फैक्ट्रियों को लाइसेंस दिये हैं या देने वाले हैं, उससे प्रोडक्शन कितना ज्यादा बढ़ेगा और वह कब तक पूरी हो जायेगी ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The licences that will be granted both for expansion and for new factories will give about 7.5 lakh tons—annual production.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: May I know whether any new licence for starting a sugar factory has been given to the State of Bihar?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: No, Sir.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister stated that the general policy is to

allow licences only in the co-operative sector. May I ask him whether it means that even if there is no capital formation in the co-operative sector for setting up factories, they would rather not have any sugar factories under the private sector? Secondly, may I ask him whether there are favourable signs to show that there is adequate capital formation in the co-operative sector for these factories?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir. There is adequate capital formation in the co-operative sector and it is only when it is not possible to set up factories in any particular region in the co-operative sector, we have alternative proposals from the private sector. But as far as we know, Sir, there are a sufficient number of cooperative factories coming up.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Sir, we are given to understand that this year's production of sugar is about 32 lakh tons and this is 5 lakh tons in excess of our internal consumption. We are also told that on account of exports and the fall in prices in the foreign markets we are suffering heavy losses. I would like to know whether all these things are in conformity with the development of the trade to the extent of nearly 40 lakh tons which is proposed to be done? Sugarcane replaces food production rapidly and sugarcane is more profitable. Are all these things taken into consideration before licensing is done?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI N. PATRA: Have they received any applications from the Government of Orissa to set up sugar factories in the co-operative sector, Orissa being a good producer of sugarcane?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Yes, Orissa has been given one licence. The name of the place is Attabira, Tenali Bargarh, Sambalpur district.

SHRI D. THENGARI: How many co-operatives are already in the field and how many are working satisfactorily according to the Government?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The total number is about 54 and nearly 47 to 10 are in production.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: The country is facing great shortage in foodgrains. In spite of that licences are given to sugar factories and large lands which were growing more food are going out for sugar production. I should like to know how much sugar is exported per year to the foreign countries and how much foreign exchange is got by us. Thirdly, I want to know whether it is a fact that the price of sugar which is sold here is double that of the sugar sold in foreign countries?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: A very small quantity is exported to foreign countries. This year out of a production of 2.70 lakh tons of raw sugar, we exported 2.60 tons. The foreign exchange earning would be about Rs. 10 crores this year.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The sugar factories in the Eastern U.P. and North Bihar are going through a crisis. They are not receiving adequate quantities of sugarcane. May I know why new licences are being issued instead of taking steps to increase sugarcane production and also increase the sugar content?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: As a matter of fact there was no difficulty so far as Eastern U.P. is concerned. Actually the production in Eastern U.P. has gone up very much. There was some difficulty in Western U.P. during the previous sugar season on account of the strike resorted to by the cane growers. So adequate availability of cane was not there on account of the competition between the gur manufacturers and khandsari manufacturers.

ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

•417. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether his Ministry has suggested to the State Governments to do away with, "minimum guarantee charges" for electrical connections intended for agricultural purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): All States were requested as far back as 1959 to review the question of minimum guarantees so that insistence on such guarantees does not affect lift irrigation. This question *inter alia* has been further examined by a Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1964 with Shri B. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, Madras, as Convenor. This Committee has recommended that the State Electricity Boards should consider whether minimum guarantees levied on agricultural consumption could be reduced or abolished. This recommendation of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: From the Minister's statement, do I understand that these recommendations have not been passed on to the various Electricity Boards in the States and, if so, why was there so much delay in considering it?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The matter was referred to the State Governments for their comments. Their comments in some cases have been received and in some cases they are awaited.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: On the question of giving a little current for lift irrigation, there are said to be numerous anomalies between the States, between one Board and another. I would like to know whether an integrated picture is likely to be taken? In some States the rates are high, in some the encourage-