

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) The Government of Punjab had agreed to allow the nominees of deficit States to purchase up to 15,000 tonnes of broken rice from the millers and traders in Punjab. The price was to be settled with the traders with whom the stocks are lying. The Government of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan had been advised to purchase this rice through their nominees.

The movement of broken rice was, however, slow and to avoid deterioration in the stocks, it has been agreed that the millers and traders in Punjab may fix up deals directly with dealers in the deficit States. The Punjab Government will ensure that the prices charged in Punjab are not higher than the maximum controlled prices and send a copy of the permit issued to the dealer of the recipient State for the movement of broken rice to the district authorities of the importing State indicating the price charges by the Punjab miller or dealer. The district authorities of the recipient State would ensure the sale of broken rice at a reasonable price based on the purchase price.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: For how long has this stock been lying with them?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The stock has been lying with them during the period of this rice crop year.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether the Government will ensure that the dealers will get the stock at reasonable prices and that they will also sell it at a reasonable price to the States?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The stocks to be purchased are purchased in consultation with the Punjab Government. Of course, the price that will be charged will be less than the maximum controlled price and when it has to be sold, it is sold under the supervision of the district authorities.

SHRI SHIVA NAND RAMAUL: May I know whether the States other than those named by the hon. Minister can also be allowed to purchase this rice if they stand in need of rice?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The names of the States have already been mentioned. But if any other deficit States want to purchase it, they can write to us and allotment will be made subject to availability.

INTER-STATE MOVEMENT ON KHANDSARI

*716. SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an approach was made to the Centre by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for removal of ban on Inter-State movement on Khandsari; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter by the Central Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN):

(a) Yes Sir; in February 1965 on condition that quota of factory sugar was increased.

(b) It was not possible to accept the condition.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Sir, in view of the fact that Khandsari is a rural and cottage industry—the farmers can easily take to Khandsari manufacture being a rural industry—does not the Government think that this restriction will create hardship to the farmers and especially to those belonging to this rural industry?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This does not help the farmers as such; it will only help the traders in Khandsari.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Does the Government think that the traders alone can bring it into the market and not the farmers? Farmers too can

be expected to take advantage of the conditions, not only the traders.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The entire stock is now with the traders, we know that.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What are the prevailing rates of Khandsari today in the U.P. market and what are the rates outside U.P. because it is not exported to the other States and it is being sold at a very high price?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Before the price control on Khandsari was removed on the 29th June, 1965, the prices fixed per quintal were—

White crystalline Khandsari . . .	127
White, creamish white in colour . . .	124
Yellow in colour	117
Brown in colour	106

Now the prices in the deficit States are in relation to the prices here plus the cost of transport and other incidentals, and that will be the selling price.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Should I take it that the producer of Khandsari is permitted to sell the commodity in any other State?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As far as export is concerned, it is not done by the farmer, it is done through the trade. As soon as it is produced, it goes into the hands of the trade. Therefore, the overall position with regard to Khandsari has to be taken into account. And whether it should be allowed to go outside, it will depend upon the need for Khandsari in U.P. itself. That is why on a regulated basis, the export is being allowed.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: From what the hon. Minister has suggested, it appears that it is only the traders who bring the commodity into the market and it is not always the producer; he also . . .

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: They export, I say.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: The producer also tries to export and may get a large margin of profit. Why should it be the traders only, and why should the farmers be penalised for it?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If the farmer makes an application for export, a permit can be given by U.P. because there is a regulated export even now which the farmer also can take advantage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS**

RETRENCHMENT OF EMPLOYEES

*698. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some employees in his department have to face retrenchment on the ground of being surplus;

(b) if so, how many such persons will be affected;

(c) since when they are in service; and

(d) how they have suddenly become surplus?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (d) The question whether any employee of the Commodity Committees under the Department of Agriculture would be rendered surplus as a result of the re-organisation of research activities, is under consideration. It is too early to say whether there would be any retrenchment, and if so, to what extent.