

has only a name but no programme and no cohesion

MR CHAIRMAN I am afraid I will not allow further questions. No significant information can be had by putting question of this kind.

PROF M B LAL Do you get any opportunity to explain the policy of the SSP in this House?

MR CHAIRMAN Order, order. Next question.

WONDER DRUG FOR PLANT DISEASES

*714 SHRI M C SHAH Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet scientists have discovered a wonder drug, "Nitrophen", to eliminate cancer of potatoes;

(b) whether this drug is found to be effective against other plant diseases also, and

(c) if so whether the Ministry has considered the desirability of utilising this drug under Indian conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D R CHAVAN) (a) Yes

(b) Soviet scientists claim that the drug is also effective against diseases and pests of fruit trees

(c) Sample of the drug just secured by the Central Potato Research Institute is under experimentation against wart disease

SHRI M C SHAH May I know whether in our country any research has been made for finding out some drugs for such plant diseases?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM We are also carrying out large-scale researches with reference to these things, but whenever we find that in another country some achievement has been made, we try to get the benefit of that experience also for our own purpose.

SHRI M C SHAH May I know whether our Government has indented any of this drug for use in our own country and, if so, what is the amount of foreign exchange involved in this matter?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM Some sample of this drug has been secured and it is now under experimentation. It is only a small quantity that has been obtained

SHRI P N SAPRU What is this cancer of potatoes? We have heard of cancer in human beings. But what is this?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM It is a disease which affects potatoes and brings down production

MR CHAIRMAN And increases the size

*715 [The questioner (Shri D. Thengari) was absent. For answer, vide cols 4523-24 infra]

COST STRUCTURE OF SUGAR

*716 { SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA †
SHRI N PATRA

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Tariff Commission to enquire into the cost structure of sugar,

(b) if so, what circumstances led Government to take this decision, and

(c) whether the cost structure of sugar was examined by the Commission previously also and if so, when it was examined last?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D R CHAVAN) (a) Yes, Sir

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sitaram Jaipuria

(b) and (c) Cost structure of sugar was last examined by the Tariff Commission in 1958-59. Since the submission of the commission's report in 1959, substantial changes have taken place in the wage and capital structure of the industry and in cost of stores etc. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary to re-examine the matter.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: By what time is the Tariff Commission supposed to give its report?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is some difficulty, Sir, with regard to this matter. The Sen Commission also was asked to go into the cost structure of sugar manufacture in India. Therefore, I do not think two bodies should be looking into the same matter. I have taken a decision that instead of the Tariff Commission, the Sen Commission itself should make study and go into the entire scheme of sugar production and the cost of production. Therefore, I am sorry, Sir, this answer that is given is a little out of date because I took the decision only yesterday.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the serious situation developing in Western U.P. because the gur prices are substantially higher and the cane growers get more than the price fixed by the Government, may I know whether the Government will take immediate steps either to raise the price of cane to the growers so that the cane may be diverted from gur making to sugar manufacture, or allow the mills to compete freely in the market and make this sugar free to that extent?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is no question of raising cane prices during the season because after full representation the cane price was fixed at the level asked for by the U.P. Government and also the Bihar Government. Unfortunately last year on

three occasions the prices were raised when some sort of action was taken by the growers. Perhaps this is the temptation for the growers to resort to a strike in the hope that the price will be raised. I want to tell the cane growers through the hon. Member that there is no question of raising sugar cane price and it is for the U.P. people to decide whether they should have gur making or sugar manufacture. Particularly when there is more and more demand to establish sugar factories. I want them to take a decision very soon whether they would have sugar-sugar manufacture or gur making. They cannot have both.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the trouble in the sugar factories in U.P. is confined only to one district of U.P. and U.P. still remains the biggest producer of both sugar and khand-sari and also gur?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is true and even in this district I am sorry to say it is the P.S.P. and the Communist who are organising a strike of the ryots. The ryots are being misled and I am sure very soon they will find that the sugarcane is becoming useless for being used either for gur or for sugar. Even when the ryots come forward to supply the sugarcane to the factories. I am told the P.S.P. volunteers and the Communist Volunteers begin picketing the trucks and carts moving towards the sugar factories.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Very sad, very sad.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The hon. Minister has taken this opportunity to make a policy statement about the sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the cane growers in Uttar Pradesh are not receiving even the cost that they incur in producing cane and whether he will consider the desirability of appointing

a committee to study this cost structure, of growing sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Sen Commission has been appointed for that very purpose and that Commission will go into this question. Even now, I am told that at two rupees per maund, the price which is now being paid for sugarcane, it is quite remunerative compared to other agricultural produce.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Reverting to my question, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that there were certain ambiguities in the Report of the Tariff Commission which gave certain discretionary powers to officers which proved very much detrimental to the sugar industry in Northern India? May I also know whether the Sen Commission would be advised to avoid such ambiguities and to deal with the whole thing in a clear-cut way, by having the whole thing not on imaginary basis but on a more rational basis, because different zones and sub-zones have got different economies and different cost structure.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the same thing is being complained of in the Southern Zone also.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: I am talking of every zone.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: They say that the price factor has been against the Southern Zone. I am not going into it now but I think another authority apart from the Tariff Commission, should look into this and I have taken the decision that the Sen Commission should look into the matter of the cost and various other aspects connected with it.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: I would like to know whether it is a fact that the millowners of Uttar Pradesh have made a representation to the Government to the effect that they are not getting supplies of cane and as such the

mills will have to be closed down? If that is so, would the Government come forward with some methods by which supplies of cane can be made available to them?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I referred to this aspect. It is a political strike which has been organised by two parties. Therefore, I would not know how to resolve this because now they have resorted to picketing of the movement of sugarcane also. The ryots are willing to deliver the cane. Therefore, it has to be dealt with by the Government of Uttar Pradesh as a law and order situation there.

PROF. M. B. LAL: If the growers of cane are willing to give, no amount of picketing will do.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether Government have a scheme of giving rebate to sugar mills under certain circumstances, particularly when production exceeds a certain limit? May I know also, if that scheme is there, under the circumstances prevailing today, why that rebate is not being given now? Why is Government waiting for a month or two more, till March or April, to give this rebate? If they give it now, production will not lessen; on the other hand, production will be higher.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In the case of all seasonal crushing, before the season begins and in the earlier months, they do not get as much recovery as possible. For that, we have given a fifty per cent. rebate. For the off-season after the main season that will begin in April, we are considering giving some concession also but that announcement need not be made now. In the normal period last year, no doubt we gave certain incentives but in view of larger cane production in the country today which is of the order of round about fifteen per cent. more we thought that it was not necessary to give any incentive for the normal period.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: May I know whether the Central Government have any information about how the Government of Uttar Pradesh are dealing with the people who are preventing the sugarcane from reaching the factories? Are they at the mercy of the parties or at the mercy of the cultivators? Have we no information at all?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sure the Government of Uttar Pradesh are aware of their responsibilities and I am sure they will take such action as they deem necessary.

PROF. M. B. LAL: May I know from the Food Minister whether the supplementaries raised by Mr. Sinha and Mr. Chandra Shekhar will not convince him that the S.S.P. and the Communist Party alone do not blame the Government for not taking the right step at the right time?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, giving suggestions to the Government is one thing and physical picketing of movement of cane from the fields to the factories is another thing. Evidently, the hon. Member believes only in street action, not in Parliamentary action.

PROF. M. B. LAL: We believe in both, Sir.

SHRI N. PATRA: May I know whether Government will direct the Commission to establish equitable balance between the prices of agricultural commodities and those of manufactured goods? Before Government asks this Commission to go into the question of protection to the millowners, will it ask the Commission to evolve a policy of equitable and balanced price fixation so far as the prices of agricultural products and those of manufactured goods are concerned?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not think this Commission will be competent to do this but I may inform the hon. House that the Agricultural Price

Commission which we are going to appoint will take into account, while fixing the price to be fixed for the various agricultural products and processed agricultural products, the price of non-agricultural products also. Therefore, that will be the function of the Agricultural Price Commission.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: The blame is being shunted from one quarter to the other, from the Central Government to the State Government and vice versa. Sugar factory is a seasonal factory. This being so, may I know, whoever is to be blamed for this, what steps are being taken by the Central Government, on its part, to see that these seasonal factories get their cane and the economy does not suffer? The whole question is bound to have an economic effect which is bound to affect the production of sugar ultimately and very greatly too.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We are constantly in touch with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. As a matter of fact, I obtained information through the telephone this morning and I am told that in spite of the activities of the S.S.P. and the Communist Party, the situation is improving, and is bound to improve.

SHRI N. PATRA: Before giving any protection, is it not desirable for the Commission to eliminate the disparity in the cost structure of the agricultural products and the factory production?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not know what protection the hon. Member refers to but I am sure the Sen Commission will go into all the relevant factors and make recommendations which will make sugar production not only remunerative but also enable the industry to be developed to meet the requirements of the country.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: The hon. Minister has said that for the normal crushing season this year, they do not propose to give any rebate because cane production is adequate but that

production is not being reflected in the supplies either because of the strike or because the price is not adequate. Since that is not reflected in the supplies, so far as the mills are concerned, the result is the same as if production was not adequate. In the circumstances, would Government consider the desirability or propriety of granting rebate even for the normal season so that sugar production becomes higher?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is confined to a small area, one district in western Uttar Pradesh; this should not be generalised. As a matter of fact, the trend in sugar production in November and December, compared to 1963, which itself was much higher than in 1961-62 and 1962-63, is at a much higher level. Therefore, the trend in production is quite satisfactory.

INTEGRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

*717. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL SECURITY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated department of Social Security has been formed by amalgamating the various sections transferred from other Ministries;

(b) whether office accommodation to house the new Ministry has been allotted; and

(c) how many officers at present constitute the personnel of the Integrated Ministry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): (a) Yes.

(b) The Department of Social Security has been allotted most of the accommodation which was previously occupied by the staff and officers before their transfer from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Education, Industry and Labour and Employment to this Department. Some additional accommodation has recently been

allotted to the Department in Janpath 'A' Barracks for the additional staff since secured. But accommodation is still to be found for one Deputy Minister and a Joint Secretary and one Under Secretary. Effort is being made to secure further additional accommodation required and to arrange all the accommodation under one roof or in close proximity.

(c) (i) 37 Gazetted Officers;

(ii) 180 non-Gazetted Officers (including Class IV staff).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

बीज अंकुरण जांच मशीनें

*६६४. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी
चौरङ्गिया : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बीजों के अंकुरण की जांच पड़ताल करने वाली बीज अंकुरण जांच मशीनें भारत में कहा कहां कितनी-कितनी उपलब्ध हैं ;

(ख) भारत में ऐसी कुल कितनी मशीनों की आवश्यकता है ; और

(ग) एक मशीन पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च होगी ?

†[SEED TESTING MACHINES

*694. **SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in India where germination testing machines for testing germination of seeds are available and the number of such machines at each place;

(b) the total requirement of India in respect of these machines; and

†[] English translation.