

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st December, 1964j/the 30th
Agrahayana, 1886 (Saka\)

The House met at eleven of the ciock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*694. [The questioner (Shri V. M. Chordia) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 4508—11 infra.]

*695. [The questioner (Shri B. N. Bhargava) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 4511—17 infra.]

•696. [The questioner (>hri Babubhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 4517 infra.]

•697. [The questioner (Shri Ab^dul Ghani) was absent. For answer, jride cols. 4517-18 infra.]

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR OUT OF BEET-ROOT

f SHRI M. C. SHAH:t

*698. I SHRI DEOKINANDAN
_ NARAYAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD JVND
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Research Board, New Delhi, has finalised l a scheme to manufacture sugar out of beet-root; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD A|ND
AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAB*A. NIAM):
(a) and (b). No, Sir. Department of Food has, however, under consideration a proposal for growing sugar beet on commercial scale aind determining the economics of production of sugar from beet-roots.

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. C. Shah.

1134 RS—1.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether the Central Research Board have made any suggestions for improving the cultivation of cane to give more percentage of sugar?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is with reference to beet-root. As far as cane is concerned, we are evolving new varieties having more sugar content. As a matter of fact recently a variety known as C0997 has been released which is supposed to give 17 per cent, of recovery as against the average of 10 to 11 per cent. now.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether the Government have assessed the comparative prices of sugar frum cane and from beet-root ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: With regard to sugar from beet-root, we do not have any experience still. But we are taking it up on a pilot scale. When we do that, perhaps we may be able to get some data. But I am told as far as beetroot is concerned, it can be grown even on saline land. That would be a very profitable proposition, because on saline land we are unable to grow anything else. If this proves successful, perhaps to that extent we may have beetroot grown on this land.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: The hon. Minister has just stated that a new variety of sugarcane has been released which can give 17 per cent, of recovery. It is a very encouraging report. May I know when it was released and experimented upon and what is the progress with regard to I that?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It was released about a year back. It has become popular in Andhra Pradesh now. The other States, Southern States, are also taking it up but unfortunately this variety may not suit the climate of U.P. and Bihar, but other varieties are being evolved.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Can we know how much area has been sown in this variety?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: A few thousand acres have already been sown.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is the Minister aware that European countries have successfully extracted sugar from beet-root?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir. In fact there are many areas in which beet-root is the only source for sugar.

SHRI J. S. PILLAI: Is the Government aware that we can manufacture sugar from palmyra, date palm and palm juice?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We are manufacturing sugar out of palm, coconut, palmyra and various other things.

Miss MARY NAIDU: Which are the areas where beet-root can be grown on a large scale in order to manufacture sugar and may I know if any experiments have already been made in this connection?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In the cold regions of Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. But Gujarat also can be considered with regard to the saline land available there.

SHRI BIREN ROY: May I know how much saline area has been prospected and how much quantity of beet-root can be grown there?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No prospecting has been done because first we want to establish the economics of beet-root growing as against cane growing. This is a tropical country where cane growing is considered better but certainly there are certain areas in which beet-root can be grown. Therefore, comparative economics will have to be worked out.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Some time back, Sir, a question was asked in this House and it was stated that certain foreign countries, probably

Czechoslovakia, had explored the possibility of manufacturing sugar from beet-root in Jammu and Kashmir. May I know what happened to that proposal or is it still under consideration?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am not aware of it, Sir.

Miss MARY NAIDU: May I know if it is true that the co-operative sectors did not get licences even though they had enough of cane to crush for sugar?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am afraid this is going too far away from the main question.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I would like to know whether any experiment is being made to evolve a suitable variety for the northern region, in U.P. and Bihar, just like C0997 variety giving 17 per cent.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Only the day before yesterday I visited the Sugarcane Research Institute in Coimbatore. They are evolving a few varieties which will be useful in places like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

*699. *The questioner (Shri G. K. Kapoor) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 4518-19 infra.]*

INAUGURAL FLIGHT OF AIR INDIA TO MOSCOW

*700. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which invitations to the inaugural flight from India to Moscow were issued and in particular what was the basis of selection of Members of Parliament for this flight;

(b) why no member of the principal Opposition Party was invited; and

(c) why the inauguration could not be timed so as to coincide with