

شری عبد الغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب
ہماریلئے وہ ناگ پور سے احمدآباد
جانے والے مسافروں کی روزانہ تعداد
کتنی ہے - اگر تعداد کافی ہے تو کیا
وہ اس کے مطالبہ کو اکتوفیت
کریں گے -

†[श्री अमृल गनी : क्या वज़ीर साहब
बतायेंगे कि नागपुर से अहमदाबाद जाने
वाले मुसाफ़ि़रों की रोज़ाना तादाद कितनी
है ? अगर तादाद काफी है तो क्या वह
उनके मतालबा को एकोमोडेट करेंगे ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ : यह जो कोच
जाता है, जिसका मैंने ज़िक्र किया, उस कोच
ने रोज़ाना ७८ आदमी सफर करते हैं ।
उस कोच में ८० सीटें होती हैं बैठने के लिये
और २४ ऊपर की बर्थ होती हैं सोने के लिये
और यह तादाद जो है यह काफी है ।

SUGAR-BEET

*59. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether sugar-beet is grown anywhere in the country and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Sugar-beet is not grown as a commercial crop anywhere in India.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know the percentage of sugar content in the sugar-beet as compared to sugar-cane?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Experiments conducted by us indicate that the average per acre yield ranges from 12 to 20 tons. The average yield also in certain areas has been 30 tons. The sugar content has been 15 per cent. of the fresh weight of the root so that the recovery is likely to be around 12 per cent.

† [] Hindi transliteration.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, since the sugar content in sugar-beet is far more than what you find in the sugar-cane, why sugar-beet cultivation is not encouraged?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We made a certain series of experiments in the cultivation of sugar-beet at the Indian Institute of Sugar-cane Research, Lucknow, and various other research stations. In fact, our experience has been that sugar-beet cultivation could be had in India. But then experiments on the manufacture of sugar from beet root which we conducted at the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, indicated that there are certain difficulties in the process on account of the high temperature in April and May. The fuel requirements are also higher. But the bagasse which we could utilise out of the manufacture of sugar-cane is not available here. So there is the fuel problem also. Then there is the other question that this can be done only if there is plenty of irrigation, and also it must be in cold climes. There are these limitations.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: I could not follow why the cultivation is not being encouraged. Unless it is encouraged and experiments are made on it, how is it to be known that the factories will not do it?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We are proposing to have a pilot plant at Dehra Dun, but as I have indicated, in the plains it might not be quite profitable. In the first place there must be irrigation in the cold climes where the crop will thrive properly. So, apart from the process of manufacture itself there is this difficulty. In the cold climes it may not be possible to have location of sugar factories, as there is the question of transport. Our experiments at Kanpur indicate that unless soon after plucking it is utilised, it would not be possible to have it manufactured on a commercial scale. We have conducted certain experiments, and of course

sugar-beet can be grown in India, but commercial possibilities are not quite bright.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister who conducted the investigation into the commercial possibilities of sugar-beet. Was it done by Government or a private agency?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: By the Government.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: It is generally said, Sir, that sugar-cane requires the best soil. Does beet also require the same good soil, or is there any difference between the soil required for the cultivation of sugar-cane and of sugar-beet?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The beet crop also should have good soil, but the crop could be grown in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the cold regions of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. That is what our experiments also indicate. As I have said, it is not a question of growing of sugar-beet alone but it is also a question of manufacture, question of whether commercial possibilities of manufacture of crystal sugar exist. In fact our experiments indicate that it cannot be had on a commercial scale, but all the same we want to experiment again. We want to start a pilot plant at Dehra Dun.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: That is not my question. My question was this. It is generally said that sugar-cane requires the best soil and best water facilities and so on. Comparing beet-root with sugar-cane, does beet also require the same first-rate soil and water facilities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister seems to think that it does. There is no difference with regard to soil and other things.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know what is the production of sugar-beet in the

last two years and what is the position about its marketability?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There has not been any regular production except, as I have already indicated, on an experimental basis at certain of our stations.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: May I know whether it is not possible to manufacture sugar on a cottage industry basis with the sugar-beet?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That may be possible.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if more experiments are likely to be carried out on sugar-beet cultivation on a large scale?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister said that more experiments will be carried out.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS

*60. **SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foodgrain fair price shops functioning at present in the country; and

(b) the number of fair price shops in the rural areas and in the tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Over 77,000 fair price shops.

(b) Separate information regarding the number of fair price shops functioning in the rural and tribal areas is not readily available.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Are Government aware that there are no such shops in villages, particularly in the tribal areas? You will find, Sir, that the people living in tribal areas in villages suffer more than the people living in cities. Under the circum-