

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: May I know whether Government has ever made any assessment of the resultant atta being mixed up with pure atta?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is a matter of adulteration with which, of course, the Health Ministry is concerned.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: What is the nature of this resultant atta? Why is it so called?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Resultant atta is produced by flour mills in the process of making maida, suji from wheat. The coarse that remains after taking the fine is called resultant atta.

SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: Is there any restriction on the manufacture of wholemeal atta out of wheat?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is no restriction. Although under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules we are entitled to fix percentages, we have not found it necessary to fix it under the present conditions.

SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: What is the price fixed for resultant atta and wholemeal atta?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Prices which have been fixed for the States of Assam, Orissa, West Bengal and Greater Bombay are Rs. 41.53 per quintal or Rs. 15.50 per maund of wholemeal atta and Rs. 39.52 per quintal or Rs. 14.75 per maund of resultant atta. With regard to the other States, the only difference is for resultant atta and the price is Rs. 14.50. In West Bengal, it is 25 nP. more.

SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: May I know whether the sale of resultant atta is banned after some time?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is no ban.

TAKING OVER OF PRIVATE RAILWAYS IN BIHAR

*142. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what is the programme of taking over of these two railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) No. The Central Government has no contractual right to purchase these railways. The powers to purchase these lines vests in the District Board of Shahabad in terms of contracts between the District Board and the Light Railways.

*143. [The questioner (Shri Lila Dhar Barooah) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1161-62 infra.]

SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF HILL AREAS

*144. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main decisions arrived at in the Seminar on Development of Hill Areas recently held at Simla; and

(b) whether any special scheme has been devised for the development of hill areas in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH):

(a) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No special scheme has been prepared so far.

STATEMENT

The Hill Development Seminar convened by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Simla from 12th to 14th April, 1963, made the following main recommendations:—

- (1) The Seminar recognised the urgent need for integrated development of hill areas in the country, which had remained neglected in the past and recommended that an appropriate high powered agency should be set up by the Government of India in consultation with the State Governments concerned at an early date for this purpose.
- (2) To meet the paucity of trained personnel for serving in the Hill areas, it was recommended that a Special Pool of Hill Establishment should be constituted particularly for staff employed on agriculture, horticulture, engineering, soil conservation, forestry and animal husbandry work in the hill areas. The personnel for this Pool should be drawn from the various Services and given a special allowance. The needs of such staff of the States and Union Territories concerned would be met from the Central Pool.
- (3) For dealing with agricultural research problems of the hill areas, a Central Research Institute on the lines of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur should be set up at a suitable place. Since the climatic and soil conditions vary from place to

place in these areas, the Central Institute would have to work in close collaboration with the Regional and State Research Stations which are already existing or may be set up in future.

- (4) Special emphasis should be given to the development of communications in the hill areas. Roads are essential for the transport of the produce of these areas to marketing centres as well as supply of goods to these areas. There should be effective coordination in the activity of road making by the different agencies, i.e., Border Roads Organisation, Public Works Departments, Community Development and Forest Departments and other agencies.
- (5) Special programmes for the development of forests, horticulture, agriculture, animal husbandry including sheep, poultry, piggery, fisheries and bee keeping, should be implemented in these areas. Attention should be paid to soil conservation and irrigation problems.
- (6) To ensure timely marketing of agricultural produce, particularly the perishable commodities and to bring adequate returns to the cultivators of these areas, co-operative marketing facilities should be developed with adequate links in the plains. Facilities for cold storage and quick transport including refrigerated vans should be provided.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: May I know whether any specific proposals were presented by the representatives of the State of Jammu and Kashmir in regard to the development of the hill areas of Jammu State in the Seminar?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Yes, Sir, the distinguished representative from the State of Jammu and Kashmir made very useful suggestions at that Seminar and they are being worked out at present. It was also suggested that there should be an integrated planning for the people of the whole area.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know the names of the States that took part in the Seminar and whether cattle development and vegetable production were also considered there.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Animal Husbandry and Horticulture which includes vegetables also were the important subjects considered in that Seminar and almost all the States which are having hill areas higher than 500 m. elevation participated.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know, whether in that Seminar, specific subjects like cross breeding cows which is very eminently suited to hill areas—and I myself have been able to give to Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir some bulls and cows and other things—figured prominently in that Seminar.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That was also discussed and along with it, of course, the cross breeding of yak and bulls was also discussed.

GIR LIONS

*145. **SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lions are being killed in the Gir Forest by poisonous drugs and these poisonous drugs are generally administered by maldharis (cattle owners) there; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government are taking to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH):
(a) Such cases do occur; but they are extremely rare.

(b) The preservation of wild animals and birds is a State subject. Steps for the preservation of lions in the Gir forests have therefore been taken by the Government of Gujarat. That Government has declared lions in Gujarat as completely protected against killing and have also introduced a scheme of monetary compensation to the owners of cattle whose animals are killed by the lions. This has been done to dissuade the cattle owners from poisoning the lions. Further, any case of suspected poisoning is fully investigated. The Central Government has also banned the export out of India of lions dead or alive and products thereof.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I understand from the answers to the question that lions in Gujarat are fully guaranteed their fundamental rights. May I know what exactly is the lions policy of the Government, especially when they devour cattle? Do the lions play a productive part in social production in agriculture and so on? If so, how is the policy determined between the lion and the cattle?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The policy is the one I have just indicated. We are going to protect the lions and also compensate the cattle rearers. It is part of agriculture. Lions and cattle are both sometimes killed. We will see that that is avoided as far as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.