

(a) whether Government propose to consider again the possibility of connecting Bhubaneshwar with Calcutta-Madras plane service or Delhi-Madras plane service; and

(b) if so, when would it be possible to do it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b) The present Calcutta/Bhubaneshwar/Calcutta service operated with a Dakota provides a connection with the Calcutta/Delhi Viscount service but not with the Calcutta/Madras service. For operational reasons it is not possible for the Indian Airlines Corporation to advance the timings of the Calcutta/Bhubaneshwar/Calcutta service so as to provide a connection at Calcutta with the Calcutta/Madras Viscount service.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Since the plane is going from Dum Dum to Bhubaneshwar only, would the Minister consider again the proposal for connecting Bhubaneshwar with the trunk route?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Calcutta is connected with Bhubaneshwar by three Dakota services a week. Here the question is of connecting Calcutta with Bhubaneshwar along the trunk route. That, of course, the hon. Member has suggested. We will consider it in due course.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Is there any State Capital which is not connected by a direct plane service?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: We have stated that Bhubaneshwar is connected, three times a week, by a Dakota service from Calcutta.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: So far as the passengers going from Hyderabad to Calcutta are concerned, they miss the Calcutta plane at Madras by an hour or so. Will the Minister look into the matter and rectify it?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: They miss it not by an hour but by only twenty minutes. It will also be considered.

EXPORT OF SUGAR

*348. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to increase the export of sugar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): A much larger quantity of sugar has been sold for export during 1963 than the quantities exported during any of the preceding years so far.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know what extra quantity was exported last year?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In 1962 we exported 3.73 lakh metric tons.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know what are the countries to which our export of sugar has been increased?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We are exporting to the United States of America, Canada, Malaya, Singapore, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Aden and other countries.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether the international market price of sugar is higher and, if so, there is great advantage of getting our export quota to be increased?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, the export that we have in view for the year 1963-64 is 4.33 lakh metric tonnes and we have already entered into an agreement for export of that quantity. Now, as for my friend's question whether the international prices are higher, the international prices are not higher than the local prices, but the international prices are certainly looking up, because on 7th October, 1962 the London price per

long ton was only £26.50 whereas now that is on 28th February, 1963, the price is £53.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: Is the Deputy Minister aware that the production of sugar is going to be less than 22 lakh tons even and that the country has missed a very great opportunity of entering into fresh export commitments on very favourable terms because of this abnormally low production?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Of course, there is bound to be a shortage of sugar production this year, but I am not sure what would be the quantity, because the season is still on and the majority of factories are still working. So, I am not in a position to say what would be the exact production, but whatever be the state of production, having regard to our carry-over stocks we will not find any difficulty to cater to local demand as well as to the export commitment that we have entered into. As for my friend's question whether we have not lost an opportunity, now we are holding our hands with regard to further exports because of the lower production this year.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: The Deputy Minister just now replied that most of the factories are still working. Is the Deputy Minister aware that most of the factories in U. P. and Bihar have already closed or are going to be closed within a week's time?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, many factories in U. P. are being closed. As far as U. P. and Bihar are concerned, there has been less of acreage under sugarcane. The existing sugarcane there was affected by droughts and diseases, and in certain places by other adverse seasonal factors, and such things happen.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the old practice of selling sugar in foreign countries at a cheaper price compared to the price charged to the Indian consumer is

being still continued? If so, what is it, what is the difference between the prices in the home market here and the prices where we sell our Indian sugar, the prices abroad?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It has been stated, Sir, that our cost of production here, within the country, comes to about Rs. 800, and the international price which we get does not even come to about 50 per cent. of that. That is why we have asked for the sanction from the Parliament to subsidise exports of sugar. For example, in the last year we would be incurring a loss to the extent of about Rs. 14½ crores, Sir, but at the same time we are getting the much-needed foreign exchange.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: In view of the fact that the freight rate from Indian port towns to places in America, i.e., situated at a distance of 10,000 miles, is only Rs. 1-4 annas a maund, while the freight rate from the upcountry sugar-producing factories to port towns, a distance of only 600 miles, is nearly Rs. 4/- a maund, and also in view of the fact that the freight concession sought by sugar factories has not been given, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether this is not acting as an impediment to the upcountry mills in exporting sugar and what he proposes to do to improve the economic condition of the upcountry mills to be able to export sugar?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I want notice.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association, Government's export agency, appointed a certain American, Mr. Bidell, to plead in the American Congress for granting an export quota and whether he pleaded that the U.S.A. should grant an export quota to India in order to fight communism and whether later on, some time back, that certain Mr. Bidell has been severely criticised by the American Senators or not that he was engaged in a sort of—

I do not know—something objectionable from the American point of view? These are the three questions.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The question was put previously also and I have made the position very clear. The Government of India has not engaged any counsel there in the United States of America. The Indian Sugar Mills Association had engaged some person for pleading before their committees, and according to the law prevailing in the United States of America only a U.S. national can plead before their committees so that they had necessarily to engage a U.S. national.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: In view of this extraordinary increase in the price of sugar obtaining at present, may I know, Sir, whether we are in the normal stage and whether we can count upon this increased price for the future years also?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No, Sir, there has been considerable drop in production. World production has gone down and our production also has gone down. In fact, in our case there has been the diversion also, of sugarcane to *gur* and *khandsari*, and the availability of sugarcane for the sugar factories has been affected thereby. For example, in Cuba there has been a considerable shortfall in production.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: How do the Government protect the interests of the indigenous consumer while assessing the quota for export of sugar?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As I have said, Sir, there would be a sufficient quantity for internal consumption and also for the exports to which we are committed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Dr. Seeta Parmanand.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I wanted to know the price per kilo of sugar in the U. K.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In the U.K.? If my friend gives notice, I shall try to find out.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: The hon. Minister said just now that the wholesale price did not come to even half the cost of production. So I thought that he might as well . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was referring to the international price.

AN HON. MEMBER: He referred to the last year's prices and said . . .

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: He can give last year's price even.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Per ton I have given the figures. In the U.K. on the 28th February, 1963, it was £53

*349. [The questioner (Shri R. N. Kakati) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2713 infra.]

दादपुर के पास गाड़ी को उलटने के प्रयत्न के आरोप में पकड़े गये व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही

*३५०. श्री ए० बी० बाजपेयी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में सुल्तानपुर-लखनऊ रेल मार्ग पर दादपुर के पास एक सैनिक गाड़ी को उलटने के प्रयत्न के आरोप में दो व्यक्तियों को पकड़ा गया ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई ?