

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government to protect the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes; if compared to auction prices of last year.

(b) Price ranging from Rs. 2,230 to Rs. 2,250 per candy of 784 lbs. was fetched during 1959-60 against Rs. 2,850 to Rs. 3,510 during 1958-59.

(c) Yes.

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The Government is not concerned with the sale of Sea Island Cotton through auction or otherwise. The Indian Central Cotton Committee, who are looking after the development of this type of cotton, had arranged for auctions during 1958-59 with a view to secure the highest possible prices for the agriculturists to give incentive to them. This method of sale proved very successful and fetched prices ranging from Rs. 2,850 to Rs. 3,510 per candy. These prices were beyond expectation. Keeping in view the high prices secured during 1958-59, the same method was adopted during 1959-60 as well. However, the prices obtained were comparatively lower viz., ranging from Rs. 2,230 to Rs. 2,250 per candy. The reason for this fall was more imported cotton being available and the prices of other foreign varieties being proportionately lower.

The question of granting price protection to 'Andrews' cotton in the past was considered by the Cotton Committee and it was felt that the price of this cotton would have to be adjusted in accordance with the world parity prices for similar styles of cotton. Taking into consideration the prevailing market rates of similar types of cotton, the value of Sea Island Cotton lint for 1959-60 was tentatively estimated at Rs. 2,000 per candy. Thus, prices secured in the auction during

1959-60 cannot be considered low. However, with a view to fetch even higher prices, the Indian Central Cotton Committee proposes to call for tenders from interested parties individually and accept the highest offer.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know, Sir, the total area under cultivation and the total production of this cotton—figures pertaining to the States of Kerala and Mysore respectively?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, this production and acreage have been very rapidly going up. During 1959-60, an area of 3,966 acres had been finally covered by this variety of cotton. The total area that would be available for production is estimated at 2,461 acres.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: What is the total requirement of the country in respect of this variety of long staple cotton and what was the imported quantity for the year 1959-60?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, I have no estimate of the requirements of the country as a whole, but I can reply to the second part of my friend's question and I may inform him that in 1958-59 some 1.93 lakh bales were imported whereas in 1959-60 some 3 lakh bales had been proposed to be imported.

COMPLAINT AGAINST CHHATTISGARH FIRM IN RESPECT OF YELLOW RICE SUPPLY

*160. **SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Director of the Government of India at Bilaspur has made serious complaints against a Chhattisgarh firm in respect of yellow rice supply for which the firm had been issued a permit; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the appropriate authority in the matter and with what result?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Joint Director (Food) in charge of the Central Government Procurement Unit at Bilaspur brought to the notice of the State Government the attempt by two rice mills in the Chhattisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh to secure permits for the export of yellow rice from that State by artificially colouring the grains of good quality rice. The State Government asked the Collector of Raigarh District to conduct an enquiry into these cases. It is now learnt that the Collector has cancelled the licences of the two firms which attempted to export artificially coloured rice.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know the names of these firms?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The firms are Gopal Rice Mill, Kharsia, and Hanuman Rice Mill, Raigarh.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government propose to launch prosecutions against these firms?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Their licences have been cancelled. The other steps are left to the State Government.

SHRI M. D. TUMPALLIWAR: May I know how much business was transacted before their licence was cancelled?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: If we knew that such rice was being exported, then we could have taken action. So, there cannot be any statement.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government of India have made any suggestion to the State Government to prosecute these firms? Has such a direction been given?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As I have already said, it is left to the State Government to take such suitable action as it thinks fit. It may be stated that the State Government has now

issued instructions that the export of yellow rice, since there are these abuses, should be discouraged, and each case of application for export should be reported to the State Government.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I want to know what is yellow rice.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is discoloured rice.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know to which State it was exported? Bengal or other States?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It was intended to be exported to West Bengal.

RARUAN MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK IN THE DISTRICT OF MAYURBHANJ, ORISSA

*161. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent under each of the major heads in the execution of the Community Development programmes of the Raruan Multipurpose Development Block in the District of Mayurbhanj, Orissa;

(b) what is the comparative distribution of the expenditure under each head for each of the Gram Panchayats comprising the Block; and

(c) whether any evaluation of the Block activities has been made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. K. DEY): (a) A statement showing the amounts spent up to the end of February, 1960, under the various heads is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Information is not available.

(c) No evaluation of the work done in this block has so far been made either by the Programme Evaluation Organisation set up by the Centre or by the State Government. The working of the programme in this Block