

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is a different matter. It has to be taken up under "Grow More Food".

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: I understand that if they declare banana as foodstuff, there will be relief as regards sales tax. From that point of view do Government of India propose to declare them as foodstuff?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is for the State to consider.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: My last question about fertilisers. . .

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is a* different matter which has to be taken up under the "Grow More Food" schemes. Concession regarding fertilisers can be given to bananas also. I am not quite sure about the position now regarding the decision.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister look into it?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour u •over.

12 NOON.

.SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

STOPPAGE OF WORK IN SUGAR MILLS

1. SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the sugar mills of Northern India Jiave stopped work on account of the .sugarcane growers' unwillingness to .supply sugarcane to the mills at the !>rice fixed by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the •Government of India have refused to xict on the representations made by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in this connection; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter so as to relieve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, 14 factories in Uttar Pradesh have been affected out of 113 factories in Northern India.

(b) No, Sir. The State Governments of U.P. and Bihar have not made any representations for increase in the price of cane for 1958-59 season which were announced in March, 1958.

(c) It has been made clear that there is no justification for raising the minimum price of cane from Rs. 1|7| to Rs. 1|12|- per maund. It is hoped that the growers will appreciate that it is not to their own interest to withhold supplies of cane from the factories concerned.

I may also add with your permission, Sir, that news has been received on the telephone by my officer from the Cane Commissioner, U.P. to the effect that cane has started coming to all these 14 factories and most of them have resumed crushing operations.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Will the Government be pleased to state what were the recommendations of the U.P. and Bihar Governments?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As has already been said, as far as these Governments are concerned, they have not recommended any increase for the season in 1958-59.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Is it not a fact that both the State Legislatures have discussed this problem and recommended an increase?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The Bihar Legislative Assembly on the 3rd December, 1957 had passed a Resolution before the price was announced in March, 1958. With regard to the U.P. Assembly Resolution, it is a well-known fact that the Central Government could not accede to that, and

even as far as the State Government is concerned, it did not advise to make any increase for 1958-59 and it was recommended that for 1959-60, a committee might be appointed to look into that matter.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Is it not a fact that the United Sugarcane Board of U.P. and Bihar has also recommended to raise the price from Rs. 1/7 to Rs. 1/12 ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is not correct. The matter was referred to the Board and a meeting took place under (the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of U.P. Some other members also were there in that Committee and they have not thought it fit to recommend such increase.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government has received any intimation from the sugar mill owners to the effect that if the Government did not raise the price and hold on, the cane growers would be compelled because of their poverty to stop supply of cane to the mills and that is why sugarcane is not coming to the mills?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: What is the insinuation, what is the suggestion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you put ■ 'insinuation' into his mouth?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The question is whether the hon. Minister is aware that the technique of the sugar mill owners is that they should not increase the prices and that it will compel the poverty-stricken sugarcane growers to sell their stocks to the mill owners.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is well-known that as far as the sugarcane growers, who supply cane to the sugar mills, are concerned, they get a higher price than the sugarcane growers who utilise it for manufacture of gur. With regard to the technique of the sugar mills, the hon. House knows that an appeal has been made by the Chief

Minister of U.P. to the effect that it is in the interests of the cane growers themselves that they supply cane to the sugar mills.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Is it a fact that the whole question of the fixation of sugarcane price is under examination by the Tariff Commission and if so, when is that report expected to be submitted to the Government?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The entire question is being considered by the Tariff Commission—that is, the probable price for sugar—and their recommendations will certainly have a bearing on the prices to be paid to the sugarcane growers also and we expect the report without much delay.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Has the Government been able to supply to the Tariff Commission already considering the fixation of prices, statistics sufficient enough to indicate the cost of production involved in the cultivation of sugarcane by the agriculturists?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: All these things are taken into consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DIESELISATION ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

•523. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of railway transport carried by (i) diesel power and (ii) electric power; and

(b) what is the target for dieselisation of Indian Railways by the end of the Second Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Nearly 50% of existing fleet of diesel locos are engaged in yard shunting work, and a straight compari-