

the month of April and May and the estimates of the production of Rabi crops will be available only towards the end of May. It is, therefore, too early at this stage to make a comparison of the season's production with that of the last year.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: May I know what is the estimated requirement of foodgrains for this year and how will this be met? If by imports, how much will be the imports?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I submit that this hardly arises out of this question. The hon. Member asks the estimate of Rabi crops this year. I have given the answer. That is a different question altogether.

PRODUCTION OF QUININE

*52. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of quinine produced in the country in the years 1956-57 and so far in 1957-58; and

(b) the annual requirement of quinine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) 88,290 lbs. of Quinine sulphate were produced in the country during 1956-57 and during 1957-58 the output amounted to 41,853 lbs. of Quinine sulphate upto the end of October, 1957.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the exact annual requirements of Quinine in the country. On the basis of data available the annual demand for Quinine is estimated to be about 20,000 lbs.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: It has been stated that the Government is planning to reduce the production of quinine and also at the same time is planning to eradicate malaria. May I know if this is not a contradictory statement in the realm of conven-

tional medical science? What are the steps Government propose to take to eradicate malaria without quinine?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, with regard to malaria, thanks to the efforts made with popular co-operation, the need for any treatment for malaria is getting less and less. Malaria is fast disappearing. The Governments concerned, namely the Governments of Madras and West Bengal who own these plantations, are under difficulty, and we are trying to see whether exports could be coaxed, but the prices outside the country are more favourable than that the prices would be if we try to export quinine outside the country. So far as the uses of quinine are concerned, I think the Indian Medical Research Council will be going into the problem as to whether quinine could be made use of for some other purpose.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्वीनैन किन किन जगहों पर तैयार हो रही है ?

श्री डॉ० पी० करमरकर : अभी मैंने अर्ज किया था कि मद्रास और बंगाल में तैयार हो रही है। यह बात मैंने अंग्रेजी में कही थी।

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know the quantity of quinine produced in the cinchona plantations this year?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The average annual production of the quinine factory in West Bengal is reported to be 50,000 lbs., and the production capacity of the two quinine factories of the Madras Government is 30,000 lbs. In the case of Naduvattam it is 30,000 lbs. In the case of Annamalai it is 60,000 lbs. That is the position.

PROGRESS MADE IN BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

*53. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state: