

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 2nd March 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES

*93. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned permission for starting Cooperative Sugar Factories;

(b) the names of the places in respect of which the permission has been given;

(c) what is the total capital invested in each factory; and

(d) what is the production capacity of each such factory?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A statement showing (i) the names of the places in respect of which licences have been granted for setting up sugar factories on cooperative basis, (ii) their production capacity, and (iii) proposed capital structure of each of them, is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 18.] Information regarding total capital invested in each factory, is not available.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know why applications for licences for four co-operative societies near Satara and Poona were rejected?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It was because there was no likelihood of sufficient sugarcane being available for these factories, but I have not got complete information.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know when these factories will commence functioning?

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DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: One is likely to commence production this year and the rest of them will commence production next year.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know what kind of assistance Government propose to give to these co-operative factories?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The present arrangement is that we are prepared to give loans of about Rs. 10 lakhs to the State Governments for purchasing shares in these limited concerns.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know what percentage of the shares is likely to be purchased by the State Governments? Is there any condition put on them?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No conditions. In most cases we will take shares equal to those taken by the rest.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: May I know whether, before giving licences to these Co-operative Factories, Government satisfied itself that they have ample resources at their disposal to get these factories going?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We can say that in most cases they will have sufficient resources because we are trying to arrange loans from the Industrial Finance Corporation.

DAMAGE TO PADDY CROPS DUE TO LACK OF PROTECTION IN RAILWAY LANDS

*94. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to want of sufficient protection inside the railway lands around the overbridge and railway bridge near Azhikkal railway station on the Southern Railway, paddy fields adjacent to the railway lines near this station get periodically flooded with saline water which causes destruction of crops; and