

**SCHEME FOR DISTRIBUTION OF MANURE
TO SUGAR-CANE GROWERS**

*553. **SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sponsored any scheme under which manure is to be distributed freely to sugar-cane growers; and

(b) if so, the States to which aid for the above purpose has been given by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). A drive was launched last year in the States of U.P., Bihar and the Punjab for intensive manuring of sugarcane crop in an area of 2.2 lakh acres. The campaign is being repeated during the current year on a larger scale covering all the important sugarcane producing States. Ammonium Sulphate is being supplied to growers by States on deferred payment basis, for which purpose short term loans are made available by the Central Government to State Governments. Last year, a quantity of 25,200 maunds of Ammonium Sulphate was also allotted by the Central Government for free distribution to selected growers for demonstration purposes.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Why is it that other important centres in South India are neglected?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are not being neglected. This was our first attempt and we naturally concentrated on these places where the sugarcane acreage is rather large, but at the same time an appeal was made for free distribution in other areas also.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: If it is only for demonstration purposes, may I know why such a large amount was spent on this free distribution?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Because we wanted to prove its usefulness by these demonstrations.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know what has been the result of these demonstrations?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The production has gone up to such an extent that it has given us another headache.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether Mysore is included in the scheme of distribution?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि बहुत अधिक खाद देने से गन्ने में रस की मात्रा तो बढ़ जाती है लेकिन मिठास कम हो जाती है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह सभी जगहों के लिए ठीक नहीं है। कभी कभी होता होगा, मगर आम तौर पर ऐसी मुसीबत नहीं पैदा होती है।

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : किस किस जगह के लिए ठीक होता है, किसके लिए नहीं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

**CENTRAL OIL TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

*554. **SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a Central Oil Technological Research Institute; if so, where;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra have made any offer to hand over their Oil Technological Research Institute to the Government of India;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, the terms on which such offer has been made; and

(d) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes. It has not yet been decided where the Institute will be located.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Andhra Government have offered the following terms:—

(i) Transfer of the assets of the Institute on a 'no-profit-no-loss' basis or at the present market value, if that happens to be less.

or

(ii) Lease of the building and equipment for such period as the Committee may desire at a fair rental to be fixed by the Central Public Works Department or as may be mutually agreed upon between the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee and Andhra Government.

(d) The matter will be discussed at the meeting of the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee to be held at Rajkot on the 16th April 1955. Government will take a decision after receiving the recommendations of the Committee.

FALL IN FOODGRAIN PRICES

***555. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister for Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras has submitted any proposals to the Central Government regarding ways and means to check the falling prices of agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, what are those proposals and what steps Government have taken thereon?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The Government of Madras made the following suggestions to meet the

situation caused by falling prices of agricultural commodities in certain areas of that State:

(1) The Reserve Bank of India should arrange to provide better credit facilities through the issue of crop loans by banks and cooperative societies to the agriculturists at slightly lower rates of interest.

(2) Release of buffer stocks of foodgrains, in respect of which there has been a visible fall in prices, should either be stopped altogether or be released only on replacement basis, so that these stocks when released do not worsen the price situation.

(3) Price support, through Government purchase of bajra at certain centres in Madras State, where prices are below Rs. 6 per maund, should also be given.

The action taken by the Government of India on the above three suggestions is indicated below seriatim:

(1) This suggestion has been referred to the Reserve Bank of India and the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and further action to implement it would be taken, if this is considered practicable.

(2) Government of India are fully aware of the repercussions likely to be caused by release of large stocks of foodgrains at a time and these will be taken into account at the time of their disposal.

(3) An enquiry has been made from the Government of Madras as to whether the reported fall in the price of bajra below Rs. 6 per maund at Cuddalore and Tuticorin is persistent or of a fluctuating nature and whether the price quotation related to future arrivals. Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of Madras Government's reply.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether the Government of India considered the effect on the prices of foodgrains in Madras before releasing their buffer stocks there?