

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This is all to follow.

श्री जसपत राय कपूर : यह शिक्षा केंद्र कहाँ खोला गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : वहीली में ।

CANE GROWERS' CONFERENCE

*193. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolutions passed by the Cane Growers' Conference held at Delhi in December 1954; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take thereon?

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

(b) The resolutions passed by the Cane Growers' Conference in December 1954 are more or less a repetition of the Resolutions adopted by that Body on 1st October 1954 which were given due consideration by the Government. A meeting was also convened by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the 29th October, 1954, with representatives of sugarcane growers and other interests to consider (i) sugar policy for 1954-55 season, (ii) minimum cane price for 1955-56 season and (iii) a formula for the linking of cane price with price of sugar. After taking into consideration the views of all concerned including State Governments, the Government of India took certain decisions which were announced on the 27th November, 1954. A copy of the Press Note issued is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

Press Note on Sugar Policy

The Government of India have fixed a minimum price of Rs. 1/7 per maund for gate deliveries and Rs. 1/5

per maund for deliveries at rail-centres for sugarcane which will be purchased by vacuum pan factories during the season 1955-56. These prices are the same as for 1954-55 announced by the Government of India in September 1953. Although the trend of agricultural prices has been downward, the Government have decided not to reduce the minimum cane price for 1955-56 in order to provide greater incentive for increased production of sugarcane and sugar.

2. As in the past two years, the Government have further decided not to exercise any statutory control on the price or distribution of sugar, gur and khandsari during the 1954-55 season. But 25 per cent. of the sugar produced will be kept in reserve with factories from which, if need arises, the Government would requisition sugar at fair ex-factory prices to be fixed for controlled distribution. Releases of sugar from factories will be regulated by Government as in the past.

3. For bridging the gap between home production and consumption of sugar in 1954-55 the Government have decided to import refined sugar in substantial quantities from abroad. In addition, factories will be permitted to import raw sugar on their own account for refining during their idle season. An import duty of approximately Rs. 4 per maund will be levied on such raw sugar (This has since been reduced to Rs. 3/8 per maund). The procedure for grant of licence will be announced shortly.

4. The Government have also taken a decision for the first time to apply on voluntary basis throughout India a formula for linking the price of sugarcane to the price of sugar. This formula has been worked out on the principle that the cane growers should receive the same proportion of the net price realised for sugar that the cost of cane bears to the cost production of sugar in the different regions. The formula will be applied in the first instance to the 1953-54 season which has just ended and a large

number of cane growers in all the regions will be entitled to get under the formula an extra price over and above the minimum price which was in force during 1953-54.

NEW DELHI;
The 27th November 1954.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know what is the decision of the Government of India with regard to the recommendation of the Conference that the Government should ban imports of sugar altogether?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The hon. Member himself will realise that this is not for the time being a very practicable proposition.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: With regard to at least refined sugar, have the Government been able to accede to their wishes?

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: We cannot hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because they are next to each other.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The whole matter is under consideration so far as refining of sugar is concerned.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, we are short of sugar by about 4 or 5 lakh tons and to that extent we have either to import refined sugar or raw sugar. Most of the sugar that we are importing is refined and we cannot afford to stop its import.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the Resolution passed at the Conference was to the effect that the price of sugarcane should be fixed at Rs. 1/12?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: They wanted the price of sugarcane to be fixed at a higher level but after taking all the facts into consideration, we thought that Rs. 1/7 was the proper price.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that Mr. Deshmukh was also pre-

sent in the Conference and I don't know whether he was a party to the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. He was an observer.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I was not a party to the Resolution.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is it more economical to import raw sugar and refine it here?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Yes, from certain points of view it is. But I may add that our refining capacity is limited because sugar can be refined economically only in factories near the ports.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि गुड़ की कीमतें बहुत काफी नीचे गिर गई हैं और क्या सरकार गुड़ से चीनी बनाने के उपायों पर गौर कर रही हैं ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : आपका कहना ठीक है कि गुड़ की कीमतें नीचे गिर रही हैं। गुड़ से चीनी बनाने के बारे में कुछ बातचीत की है लेकिन फैक्टरी वालों के पास इस तरह का इन्विवपमेंट नहीं है।

सरदार रघबीर सिंह पंजहजारी : क्या सरकार ने सन् १९५५ के लिए गन्ने का भाव तय कर दिया है ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Same as for the present year—Rs. 1/7 and Rs. 1/5.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether the Government have evolved any formula for relating the price of sugarcane to the price of sugar on an all-India basis?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The price of sugarcane is related to the selling price of sugar and the hon. Member would be aware that there is a formula for sharing excess profits. In fact I am referring the whole question of the fixation of the price of sugarcane relative to the selling price of sugar to

a Committee which will shortly be announced.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that in Travancore-Cochin State the sugarcane prices given to the growers are four annas below the price fixed for the sugarcane?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Don't bother about one little factory there.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: It is to be bothered about because 6,000 sugarcane growers were getting less price than the all-India price.

SALE OF BOGUS RAILWAY TICKETS

*194 DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inter-State gangs, selling bogus railway tickets to ticketless travellers in trains have been detected;

(b) if so, the States and railway zones where these gangs were found to have been operating; and

(c) what specific steps are being taken to round up such other gangs or to prevent their formation in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Eastern Railway.—in the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Western Railway.—in the State of Bombay.

Central Railway.—in the States of Bombay and Uttar Pradesh.

Northern Railway.—in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The members of the gangs which were detected were prosecuted. Ticket checking staff have been alerted to exercise special vigilance to detect such cases. Special railway

staff deputed for the purpose and the Police keep a watch on the activities of the criminals suspected to be involved in such frauds.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know as to how many persons have been arrested or taken note of in this connection?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Four gangs were arrested in Calcutta and cases relating to two gangs are before the Court. The accused persons with reference to two other cases have been convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for various terms. I don't have the number of persons dealt with.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR: May I know whether the Government is considering the question of raising the T. A. and D. A. of the T. T. Es. for providing them with other amenities between their duties so that they can do their duties more efficiently and thus catch all these gangs? Otherwise as conditions prevail today, they cannot rest properly and from one sleepless night to another night they have to work on and on and on.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think the hon. Member has given both the question and the answer.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the Government aware of a gang operating in the North Eastern Railway which pretends.....

AN HON. MEMBER: He has not given answer to the other question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said the questioner himself has stated the question and given the answer. They must be given rest from fatigue.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the Government aware of a new gang operating in the North Eastern Railway which pretends to auction certain things and by way of this device, they come to know of what money is in the pockets of passengers and use it as a device for pick-pocketing?