

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the hon. Minister please look into this matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is brought to your notice, you will look into it?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: Yes, Sir.

SETTING UP OF NEW SUGAR REFINERIES

*295. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deccan Sugar Factories Association has been given an assurance that Government would not encourage the setting up of any more sugar refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such an assurance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints made rightly or wrongly, by the sugar manufacturers' association, about the opening of these sugar refineries?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Yes, especially the association referred to by the hon. Member—The Deccan Sugar Factories Association. They have written to the Government protesting against the issue of licences to the refineries, and Government have replied that their wishes have been noted. But they have mistaken it to mean that we have accepted their proposals. We have replied that their opinions have been noted.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: What precisely was their complaint and have Government gone into that complaint?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Yes, Government are considering the whole question. They fear competition by the refineries.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: But it is not a fact that once these refiner-

ies are established, then the Government will be obliged to import this raw sugar in order to get this raw material for these refineries?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I think we will have to import it.

PROF. G. RANGA: When the refineries are established in this country, will it not be possible to convert our own *gur* into sugar?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is also under the consideration of Government and Government have not yet issued the licences because all these problems are before the Government.

PROF. G. RANGA: But whom is this competition expected to affect adversely? Is it the sugar manufacturer or the sugar consumer?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Sometimes both.

PROF. G. RANGA: How?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Supposing jaggery is manufactured into sugar, then the price of jaggery will go up and the poor consumer will suffer.

PROF. G. RANGA: Why?

(No reply.)

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it not a fact that they now work only for, six months and so for the remaining six months they can refine this raw sugar?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is also under consideration of Government, whether to refine the imported sugar or to refine this jaggery produced in the country, or both, and to what percentage, and whether it will affect the consumer or the industrialist. These are all before the Government and we hope to take a decision soon.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

*296. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan for increasing the production of