

RENEWAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

♦176. SHRI H. C. MATHUR (ON BE-
HALF OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO): Will the
Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to draw up
a fresh International Wheat Agreement; and

(b) what are the specific items that will be
discussed at the next meeting of the
International Wheat Council?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
(DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) There is a proposal
to draw up a new Agreement to succeed the
present 11nd International Wheat Agreement
when it terminates in July 1956.

The agenda of the next meeting of the
Council has not yet been drawn up.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it the intention of
the Government to renew the wheat
agreement and go in for the purchases?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The present
position is that the present agreement is to
last upto July 1956. What happened at the
International Wheat Council held in October
was that it was decided that efforts should be
made to bring in other countries which have
not joined it and the terms of the agreement
should also be revised.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Has the Gov-
ernment taken any decision and do we think
that it is in the interests of the country to be in
the pool and make purchases?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: If my hon. friend
is referring to the agreement already signed, it
was undoubtedly Government's view that it
was beneficial for us to enter into the
agreement. So far as the future is concerned, I
am afraid I am not in a position to say.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: At what rate were
the purchases made last year under the
present agreement and how did it compare
with the market prices in the country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Last year I j don't
think we made any purchases except very
small quantities.

SHARE OF CANE GROWERS IN PROFITS OF SUGAR MILLS

•177. SHRI H. C. MATHUR (ON BE-i HALF
OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO): Will the Minister for
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance was re-
cently given to sugarcane growers that
they would be given a share in the
! extra profits of sugar mills; and

(b) if so, whether any formula has
been evolved for the sharing of such
profits?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
(DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) It was announced
vn 25th January 1954 that the Government of
India was considering the question of
introducing a scheme by which a legitimate
share of the additional profit made by sugar
factories during 1953-54 can be passed on to
cane growers.

(b) Yes.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Some figures
were published in the press. Were they
reliable? They were about profit-sharing.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I cannot say
which particular paper published and on what
date.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Have the
Government any formula?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: What is the basis
for it?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have got it and I
am prepared to place it on the Table of the
House.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Is it a fact that
the ' percentages were much lower than the
profit-share already being implemented in
Andhra in the

South? It is reported that 57 per cent, of the excess profit will be given to the growers in the South whereas under the SISMA formula, they are getting more.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Both these formulae were discussed at the recent meeting which was representative of all the interests and it was definitely agreed that the formula evolved by the Government was more satisfactory from every point of view.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The actual working of the formula depends upon the cost structure, number of days the factory works and naturally they will vary not only between the North and the South but between factory and factory.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that the South Indian Sugar Mills Association decided that the same formula should continue for this season also?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: In the South, Yes.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: And the percentage proposed by the Government is much lower than the percentage given by the Mills Association?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The new formula takes into account all the factors and naturally conditions in regard to the North vary from those in the South and the new formula for the North is based upon different data.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: I am speaking only for the South and not for other regions. Is not the percentage worked out by the Government for the South lower than the percentage given by the Sugar Mills Association?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This question was raised and the decision taken at the meeting was that this should be further examined so far as the percentage was concerned

MECHANICAL FARMING IN PUNJAB

♦179. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for Food and AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state in what States Central schemes for mechanical farming are working?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): In two states, viz., Jammu and Kashmir and Bhopal.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Has any such scheme been taken up in Punjab? And may I know whether the Centre has anything to do with the mechanical farming scheme in Punjab?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No—not directly in any case.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it a fact that the State Government took up this scheme on its own and there have been huge losses in this scheme and has the Central Government been approached to share that loss?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No. I am not aware of it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is he aware of a report submitted by the Punjab Government's Public Accounts Committee wherein it has been stated that a scheme in conjunction with the Central Government had been taken up there and it had resulted in huge loss—about Rs. 50 lakhs—and the loss is to be shared by the Centre and the State of Punjab?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Nothing of the sort has come to my notice. I should like to have notice of the question.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the basis on which mechanical farming is taken up in these two States of Jammu and Kashmir and Bhopal?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Availability of large portions of land. In fact we have suggested to other States also that if there are large areas of land where irrigation can be arranged the Centre would be prepared to start mechanized farms there.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the basis on which the mechanical farming by the Centre is taken up in the States?