

RENEWAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*176. SHRI H. C. MATHUR (ON BEHALF 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 IInd International Wheat Agreement when it terminates in July 1956.

(b) 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 Government 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 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 BEHALF OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO): Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance was recently 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 on 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?