

श्री आबिद अली : वतन में फर्क कहीं कहीं मूनासिब हैं और कहीं नामूनासिब भी, क्योंकि काम और उद्योग अलग अलग किस्म के हैं ।

श्रीमती शारदा भार्गव : नामूनासिब क्यों हैं ?

(उत्तर नहीं मिला)

SUGAR MILLS IN INDIA

*281. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar mills in India;

(b) the annual production of sugar in those mills from 1949 to 1953;

(c) what is the quantity of sugar consumed in the country at present;

(d) the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up to make up the deficit in the production of sugar;

(e) the number of applications so far received for setting up new factories; and

(f) the number of applications so far sanctioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) to (f) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) The total number of sugar factories in the country is 159, out of which about 25 have not been working regularly.

(b) The annual production of sugar during the years 1949-50 to 1953-54 was as under:—

Year	Production in Lakh tons
1949-50	9.79
1950-51	11.16
1951-52	14.98
1952-53	12.97
1953-54	10.01

(c) The present consumption of crystal sugar in the country is about 18 lakh tons a year.

(d) to (f). It is proposed to expand the existing production capacity of

sugar industry, 4.5 lakh tons of sugar per year. The proposed increase is sought to be achieved partly by establishment of new sugar factories and partly by substantial expansions in the existing units.

Out of the 50 applications received for setting up new sugar factories, 23 have been recommended for the grant of Licences including two for setting up refineries. Licences have also been granted to 25 existing factories for carrying out substantial expansions. This expansion of the Industry will yield an additional production of 4.5 lakh tons sugar a year as shown below:—

	Lakh tons
Expansions in 25 existing units . . .	1.54
21 new sugar factories . . .	2.08
Two sugar refineries . . .	0.92
TOTAL	4.54

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know the reason why sugar production is going down from year to year? Is it not because of less cane crop or because of more gur production?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is partly due to less cane crop in some areas because of floods and generally the production of sugarcane depended upon the relative prices of food grains and whenever the price of jaggery went up generally cane was diverted to jaggery conversion instead of supplying to the sugar factories. So in that way the production of sugar was reduced last year and this year we expect the production to go up.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know whether any smuggling is suspected by the Government across the Pakistani Border?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't proceed on suspicion, do you?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is true.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What will be the total sum required to be paid for importing eight lakh tons of sugar?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It will be about Rs. 66 crores.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What are the countries from which the sugar will be imported?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Mostly from Cuba, Java, France, U.K. and other countries.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: How long will it take to start production of sugar in the new factories to be set up?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We expect the new factories, whom we have granted permission to go into production, to take $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: How many applications have been recommended for licence from Bombay?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Bombay has been recommended licence for 11 factories out of which 10 are co-operative factories and one is a private limited concern.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Is there any proposal to import sugar from Mauritius?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Not for the time being?

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the decline in the production during the last 3 years as compared to 1951-52 due to reduction in the price of sugarcane?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: It is difficult to say that because whether one crop is preferred by the peasant or another depends upon the comparative prices and at any rate this year, while the prices of food grains have gone down, we have maintained the price of the sugarcane.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Sugarcane Committee had recommended that a price of Rs. 1/12 should be given after considering all factors including the reduction in price of cereals that has taken place?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Of course, that was the desire of the sugarcane growers but after taking all factors into consideration we felt that Rs. 1/7 would be a fair price. In fact, taking the comparative prices of food grains into account, there was a case for reduction but we were afraid that it might lead to a reduction in the sugarcane area and therefore we maintained the price of the sugarcane at the old level.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the Minister aware that the Central Sugarcane Committee is not representative only of the growers but it is presided over by a Government Officer and that it had recommended a price of Rs. 1/12?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The various State Governments recommended various prices and no final decision was taken in that Committee.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: There was a recommendation to that effect as reported in the press. Is it the hon. Minister's contention that the Committee had made no recommendations whatsoever.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The hon. Member himself said that there are various interests there. If the cane growers wanted Rs. 1/12.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you say that the Committee consisting of the representatives of the various interests have unanimously recommended Rs. 1/12?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No, there was no unanimous recommendation of the Committee.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: There was a majority decision that 1/12 should be given.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: There was no decision at all. Various views were expressed.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I know whether it is not a fact that the highest production of sugar—nearly about 1½ million tons was reached at a time when the price of sugar cane was raised to Rs. 1/12 and further that there has been a progressive drop in the production of sugar in spite of the increase in the number of factories producing sugar?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: In fact the production of sugar reached the peak level in 1952 when it was 15 lakh tons when the price was Rs. 1/12 per maund of sugarcane but that does not mean that because the price of sugarcane was high, the production was high that year. In fact if you take the figure for 1948 when the sugarcane was paid Rs. 2 a maund the production went down. The cane cultivation depends on relative price of food grains in the markets.

SHRI M. ROUFIQUE: May I know if there is one single sugar mill in the whole State of Assam?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We want some more sugar mills in Assam. We have requested some private concerns to go and start there. There is I think one mill which is not properly working.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: How many applications have been received for starting mills? (*Interruptions.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put one question, Mr. Ghose,—one question intelligibly put.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I ask:

(1) Whether the hon. Minister agrees with the view of the Planning Commission as stated in the Progress Report for 1953/54 that the decline in the production during the last 2 years is due to the reduction in the prices?

(2) If the hon. Minister's contention is, as appears from the

press reports, that the consumption is about 18 lakh tons a year, then whether the permission given to the new sugar mills will make up the deficit? If not, what further action Government propose to take?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, it is difficult to attribute the reduction to any one particular factor; may be that the drop in the price of the sugarcane is one of the factors, but not the only factor. And as for the other thing, it is true that the consumption of sugar is about 1.9 million tons and the production falls short by about 700,000 tons. Now, this deficit to the extent of about 450,000 tons is proposed to be met according to the programme already chalked out....

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: It is only 300,000 and not 400,000 tons.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: We propose to make up the balance during the second Five Year Plan.

BOOKSTALLS ON THE RAILWAY STATIONS

*282. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms on which bookstalls are let out on railway stations;

(b) whether those terms are subject to periodic revision;

(c) whether Government have any control (i) on the nature of books offered for sale; and (ii) on the fixation of prices of books, magazines, newspapers etc., especially of foreign publications; and

(d) what is the maximum number of stalls let out to one individual stall holder?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Yes.