

श्री लाल बहादुर : तजवीज नहीं है तो तजवीज की जाएगी ।

श्री डी० नारायण : कब की जायेगी ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : यह तो पानी का बहुत जरूरी काम है और मेरा ख्याल है कि एमोनिटीज प्रोग्राम के सिलसिले में उसको हम पहले लेने की कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री डी० नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह जानते हैं कि बहुत से स्टेशनों पर रात की गाड़ी के वक्त वहां बत्ती तक नहीं लगाई जाती ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : क्योंकि उधर के रहने वालों की रोशनी ज्यादा है ।

श्री डी० नारायण : यह बात कहां तक सच है कि जो तेल स्टेशन की बत्तियों वगैरह के खर्च के लिए दिया जाता है वह उसमें खर्च नहीं किया जाता है और वह वहां के कर्मचारियों के घरों पर खर्च के लिए जाता है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : ऐसी शिकायतें आती हैं । हमारी कोशिश यह है कि उसे हम रोकें । इसमें आपको भी मदद करनी चाहिए और हम भी अपनी कोशिश करते हैं ।

#### FLOOR PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

\*56. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix floor prices of food crops and commercial crops; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the fall in prices of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) At present floor prices are fixed for cotton only. There is at present no such proposal in respect of other crops.

(b) The various steps taken so far by the Government to arrest undue fall in the prices of agricultural produce include: relaxations in controls; removal of the inter-State barriers; regulation of imports; liberalisation of exports; adjustments in export duties; an assurance by certain State Governments to purchase wheat if prices tend to fall below a certain prices, etc.

SHRI PRASADARAO: The Minister said that liberal exports are allowed and I want to know what were the exports allowed in the case of groundnut?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is a complaint and pressure is being exercised by certain interests that we should allow more liberal exports but, Sir, we want to take the condition of the country as a whole into consideration, both on the manufacturing side as well as on the agricultural side.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it a fact that exports allowed so far are less than 4 per cent, of the surplus in the country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The complaint is, as I have already pointed out, that we have allowed lesser exports; but for a long time the prices were so high that we did not think the interests of the consumers and the general public would be served by allowing more liberal exports.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that there are certain crops like onions, potatoes, etc., which are perishable and which require cold storage facilities? Is there any scheme contemplated by the Government for the construction of cold storage facilities in every district and taluk?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Government have no scheme of that nature but private cold storage facilities are coming into existence fairly rapidly and they are also fairly prosperous. We will also see that we allow adequate exports of those commodities.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, is it a fact that the fall in retail prices is not commensurate with the fall in wholesale prices and that there is a big gap between the two?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is most surprising how the price variations in the country exist. I have myself tried to compare and it is amazing how the prices vary. I do not know who is responsible for this and what the remedy is but I know and I can admit the complaint as correct that there is very great variation between the retail and the wholesale prices.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is the fall in retail prices sufficient to increase the consumption of food grains?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, there is no doubt that the consumption of food grains has gone up.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government aware that while an export duty of Rs. 350 per ton is being levied on ground-nut oil, no such levy is made on Vanaspati?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That would be a proper question to be asked of the Commerce and Industry Minister.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, is the Government aware that while permission is given to export oil so as to help the peasants who have surpluses for export, but with this export duty on ground-nut oil that objective has been frustrated, and that this duty has been levied only to facilitate the manufacturers of Vanaspati and is not in the interests of the ground-nut producers?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This also should be addressed to the Commerce and Industry Minister.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the opinion of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on this? I want to know whether the Ministry of Food and Agriculture supports this stand of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: When action has been taken by one Ministry it should be presumed that it has the support of the other Ministry.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Normally it is so but not in the Government of India.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The hon. Member seems to know.....

PROF. G. RANGA: The hon. Minister referred to certain interests, agricultural interests, when he was expressing the view that some of them wanted the export duty to be reduced whereas others wanted the export duty to remain. Is he aware of the fact.....

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I did not refer to any such thing.

Prof. G. RANGA: You look into the reports and you will be able to see that.

Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee, on which are represented industrialists, traders and growers, has recommended that this export duty ought to be abolished or, at least, it should be radically reduced and that, in spite of that, the Government of India have increased the export duty only recently?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This question of export duty and import duty, I must say with due deference to my hon. friend, must be addressed to the Commerce and Industry Minister. They do consult us but they have also other factors to take into account.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether floor prices fixed for cotton are not working to the disadvantage of the cotton growers and that this is discouraging the cotton crop?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: So far it has not had any such bad effect as has been suggested by my friend.

SHRI PRASAD AR AO: Is it not true that the exports of ground-nut oil were suddenly stopped just when the crop was being harvested?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: My friend may probably be right, but it was not done deliberately.

#### FARMERS' CONFERENCE

\*57. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of farmers was held in July under the auspices of Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the representatives to the conference were selected?

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

(b) The representative farmers who participated in the Farmers' Conference were mostly those selected by the State Governments concerned.

SHRI PRASADARAO: What were the factors taken into account by the State Governments in selecting them? Were any instructions given by the Central Government?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, the proposal was that as far as possible practical and progressive farmers should be chosen, people who have certain influence among the farming community.

SHRI PRASADARAO: What is meant by 'practical progressive farmers'?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Those persons who are prepared to take the advice of the Department of Agriculture and improve their agriculture.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Who were the delegates representing Andhra?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: They were not the delegates of anybody.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Are you sure that they have any knowledge about actual cultivation? Were they actual cultivators?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I can assure my hon. friend they were.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: If the Andhra Government had not chosen to send actual cultivators, if that be actually the case, then it is their fault. We had asked them to send cultivators.

श्री डी० नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतला सकेंगे कि जो प्रतिनिधि वहाँ किसानों के आए थे उनका खर्चा किसने उठाया ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : उन्होंने ही खर्चा किया। यह बात थी कि वे ही अपना खर्चा बर्दाश्त करें।

श्री डी० नारायण : इस कॉन्फ्रेंस में सरकार का खर्च कितना हुआ ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : ज्यादा से ज्यादा दो हजार रुपये, इससे ज्यादा नहीं हुआ।

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May we know who inaugurated this conference and who presided over it?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I presided over the conference. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Revenue Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was the Chairman of the Reception Committee.