

sum as a loan in the first instance and give only Rs. 40 lakhs as grant to the Andhra Government?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** That the Government of Andhra State is arranging with the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission.

**SHRI H. D. RAJAH:** Does not this bridge come under the scheme of development of the Trunk Road of the Government of India? That is the point.

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Yes, otherwise we would not be paying.

#### IMPORT OF SUGAR

\*165. **SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar imported during the second half of last year;

(b) the rate at which it was imported;

(c) the difference in the rates per maund of the imported sugar and the sugar produced in the country; and

(d) the difference between the total yield of cane during this season and that during the last season?

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH):** (a) A quantity of 2.5 lakh tons sugar was purchased up to 31st December 1953 for import into India, and the entire quantity arrived up to end of February 1954.

(b) The landed price of imported sugar on an average worked out to about Rs. 20 per maund excluding import duty.

(c) The imported sugar is being sold at a price that would not injure the interests of the cane growers, but its price is still below the price of Indian sugar.

(d) The total yield of cane (in terms of raw sugar-gur) during 1952-53 was 52.60 lakh tons. Final estimate of yield for 1953-54 is not yet available. According to the second estimate it is expected to be 51.00 lakh tons.

**श्रीमती सावित्री निगम :** क्या मंत्री महोदय को ह विदित है कि गन्ने की कीमत में कमी होने के कारण किसान गन्ने की खेती की ओर से उदासीन हो रहे हैं और इसलिये ही बाहर से चीनी मंगाने की आवश्यकता होती है ।

†[**SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM:** Is the hon. Minister aware that due to a fall in the price of sugarcane, the peasants are growing indifferent towards cane cultivation and that is why it is necessary to import sugar from abroad?]

**रफी अहमद किदवाई :** गन्ने की कीमत की वजह से नहीं बल्कि पार साल फसल खराब हो गई थी । इस साल फिर भी ज्यादा बोया गया है और गन्ने की कीमत कम होने पर भी मुझे डर है कि आइन्दा साल के लिये गन्ने की हतनी ज्यादा खेती होगी कि उसकी वजह से गुड़ के दाम और भी कम होंगे और किसानों की तकलीफ होगी

†[**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** It is not due to sugarcane prices but because the crop failed last year. This year again it has been grown in excess and in spite of its low prices I fear that in the coming year there will be such a bumper crop that the prices of gur will fall and the cultivators will be put to difficulty.]

**PROF. G. RANGA:** Is there any truth in the statements that are being made in the papers so often that it is because sufficient prices are not being given for the cane that the cane growers are not growing enough cane and therefore there is less sugar produced by the mills and hence the necessity to import sugar from foreign countries?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** There are people who want to go not by facts but by fiction.

†English translation.

**SHRI C. G. K. REDDY:** What are the facts?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** The fact is, there is more area under sugarcane cultivation than in the previous year

**PROF. G. RANGA:** Is it not a fact that although cane may be produced in this country to a greater extent than in the past, sugar mills are not purchasing it and are not converting it into sugar?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** If there are any people in this country who will build up sugar factories and yet will not crush cane, I am yet to meet them.

**PROF. G. RANGA:** Is it not a fact that the sugar mills are not producing sugar to their full capacity?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** If they are not producing sugar to their full capacity it is because cane is not available now, due to the floods in Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh. Go to West U. P.; you will find that the mills will continue to work for another two weeks.

**PROF. G. RANGA:** Are we to understand that our sugar mills do produce all the sugar that they can produce and that in order to supplement the total amount available from the mills, you are trying to import sugar so that the mills may not exploit the consumers by charging higher prices?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** Our experience is that there is more consumption of sugar now than ever before and therefore this increased demand is being met by imports. I hope when the new factories for which arrangements are being made, start working, they will soon make up this shortage.

**SHRI PRASADARAO:** When did the floods occur in U.P. and when does the crushing season begin?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** The floods occurred in July-August-September and the crushing season is in November-December.

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Has the Government then revised their estimate of the total demand for sugar in this country from what is stated by the Planning Commission?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** Whatever the estimate of the Planning Commission may be, last year the sugar consumed was more than 17 lakh tons and this year's production is going to be about 12 lakh tons. Therefore Government has decided to import about 5 lakh tons of sugar this year.

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Does it mean that the Government now accept that the total demand is of the order of 17 lakh tons?

(No reply.)

**SHRI KISHEN CHAND:** Is it not the fact that sugarcane is being diverted to *gur* making because the price paid by the sugar mills is too low?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** That is all wrong. Why do we call it diverting of cane? The cane is there for *gur* making and for sugar making. Last year the production of *gur* also was short by 6 lakh tons just as sugar was short, because the cane was diseased and both industries were short of supply.

**SHRI KISHEN CHAND:** I want to point out that there is enough cane in the country, but the cane is really used for producing *gur* and is not being crushed in the mills for producing sugar.

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** Yes, because cane is grown throughout the country and factories can crush that which is available near about.

**SHRI O. SOBHANI** How many new sugar factories are likely to be put up in the near future and in what States?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** I think at least six of them will be ready to be erected.

**PROF. G. RANGA:** In what States?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** Mostly in the South.

**SHRI C. G. K. REDDY:** Is it a fact that when the hon. Minister tried to justify the import of sugar he did not say at that time that the consumption of sugar had suddenly shot up, but said that he was importing merely to stabilise the price which had gone beyond even his most capable hands?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** I will request the hon. Member to refresh his memory of what I said last year, and then put me the question.

**SHRI C. G. K. REDDY:** May I know what the hon. Minister said? From our memory it appears that he said that he was importing merely to stabilise the price and not to supplement the supply to meet the increased consumption of sugar.

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** I never thought I would be fool enough to waste the country's foreign exchange for stabilising the price. I think consumption of sugar has gone up and because of the shortage prices have gone up.

**SHRI H. P. SAKSENA:** Is it with the object of gaining the Rs. 8 per maund as import duty that this sugar is being imported?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** Beg your pardon?

**SHRI H. P. SAKSENA:** Is it for getting the Rs. 8 per maund of import duty that sugar is being imported from other countries?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** The hon. Member has forgotten that the rules have changed since he was a school teacher and that now caning is prohibited.

**DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND:** How does the hon. Minister reconcile the increase in consumption of sugar with the lower purchasing power of the people?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** How can I say?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** This increased consumption of sugar—how is it consistent with the low purchasing power of the people?

**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** It only shows that there is some disparity, that on the one hand there is less purchasing power and on the other those who can entertain are entertaining people more and more.

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF RICE

\*166. **SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and consumption of rice during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953; and

(b) the stocks of rice with Government at the end of each of those years?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA):** (a) The figures of internal production of rice and of imports from abroad are as follows:—

Year	(Figures in '000 tons)	
	Internal production	Imports
1951	20,251	749
1952	20,741	722
1953	23,424	190