

as possible from members of the Employees' Provident Fund. They were also indulging in malpractices which were detrimental to the interests of the workers. Therefore, it was decided by Government that unless the workers had sufficient funds at their credit to meet the insurance premia till the non-forfeiture stage, their proposals should not be accepted.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I do not understand the relationship between the malpractices—that may or may not be correct, because I do not know the nature of the malpractices—and the refusal of permission to have an insurance policy from the very beginning.

SHRI ABID ALI: To safeguard the interests of the workers it was thought necessary.....

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, the only disadvantage that the workers may be suffering from would be that the policies may lapse if no insurance premium is paid but that has nothing to do with the malpractices. Therefore, I should like to know from the hon. Minister as to what were the difficulties that the workers were supposed to experience if this provision was not there.

SHRI ABID ALI: This matter was considered by the Central Board of Trustees in which representatives of workers are also sitting as full fledged Members. In one particular case a large number of workers were insured by an insurance company by giving them some promises which the workers did not understand. Afterwards it was found out that the workers themselves felt that they were duped and, as I have already submitted, Sir, with a view to giving protection to the policies and making the workers realise that if they had made payments for three years they may, perhaps, themselves not be willing to allow the policies to lapse, this safeguard was provided.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I must confess, Sir, that I have not been able to follow the reason of the hon. Minister. If the workers are duped, they will be duped after the third year or in the first year or the second. In any case, the rationale of having this condition is not very clear to me as yet.

SHRI ABID ALI: It may not be clear to the hon. Member but I am willing to show to the hon. Member the details of this scheme if he pleases to see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Could he give an idea of the malpractices and the questionable methods adopted by insurance agents?

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If I might supplement that, the malpractices apply naturally to the first and second years as to the third year as well. What are the malpractices in the first year? That is what I wanted to know.

SHRI ABID ALI: I have already submitted, Sir, that they attract people by showing them some rosy picture about the benefits of the scheme; without telling them of their responsibilities, the workers are made to accept the proposals.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Just as the Congress presents a rosy picture to the people.

SHRI ABID ALI: The question hour should not be used for this sort of criticism, Sir.

*529. [For answer, vide col. 4814 infra.]

UNSOLD STOCKS OF *Gur* IN MADRAS

*530. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large accumulation of stocks of

gur (Jaggery) in Madras State with no internal demand for its consumption;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from—

(i) the Government of Madras;

(ii) the sugar-cane growers; and

(iii) the merchants

to allow the export of *gur* to overseas;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken in the matter; and

(d) what is the quantity of *gur* exported during each of the years from 1947-48 to 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). No reports to this effect have been received from any source by the Government of India. Enquiries in the matter are, however, being made from the Madras Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity exported (in tons)</i>
1947-48	.. 282
1948-49	.. 103,842
1949-50	.. 21,227
1950-51	.. 15,210
1951-52	.. 12,654
1952-53	.. 73,945
1953-54	.. *1,407

*Includes 836 tons of *Gur*.

N.B.—Separate figures for *gur* only, are not available, except for 1953-54.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, from the statement laid on the Table, we find that in the year 1952-53 we

had allowed an export of 73,945 tons of *gur* whereas in 1953-54 the export was only of the order of 1,407 tons. May I know the reasons, Sir?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, as everybody knows, we are deficient in sugar as well as sugar products during this period. Moreover, Sir, it would not be correct to say that this is all *gur*. As the heading of the statement will show, the figures include the export of *gur*, including molasses, palmyra, jaggery and sugar-candy.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say what was the percentage of exports of jaggery, molasses and candy and other things?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, as has been indicated in the statement, separate figures for *gur* only are not available nor are separate figures for each of these available very accurately.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the present day market price of *gur* in Madras has fallen by nearly 50 per cent.?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is no report to this effect but we know that in the country as a whole the price of *gur* as well as that of sugar has a tendency to go up and it is precisely for this reason that we are not allowing exports.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What is the price of *gur* in Madras?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have no information.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether inter-provincial movement of *gur* is allowed or not?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: So far as I know, there is no restriction.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the price of *gur* is going down?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: As I said, prices vary from pocket to pocket and from State to State. We have not had any report from the Madras Government to that effect.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Will the Government take it from me that the price of *gur* has been going down in the State?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not the Government of Madras, Mr. Hegde.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Has the Andhra Government represented to the Government of India to allow exports of *gur* because of the accumulation of *gur* in Andhra State and the falling down of the price of *gur* in the Andhra State?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, I understand that they have represented that export should be allowed.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Then how can the hon. Minister state on the floor of the House that the prices are going up?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The question relates to the position of *gur* in the State of Madras and I have been replying to the questions that related to Madras.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Just now you stated on the floor of the House that the prices in the country itself are going up and not going down.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I meant in the country as a whole generally, not any particular place.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What was the increase or reduction in the acreage of sugar-cane in the country in 1953-54 as compared to 1952-53?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, I have not got the information.

RISE IN THE PRICE OF SUGAR

*531. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the rise in the retail price of sugar during the last fortnight by 15 to 20 per cent.; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to check this upward trend in the price of sugar?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement on the price of Sugar

(a) The rise in the price of sugar during the first fortnight of April 1954 was mainly due to the fall in production of sugar during the current year, increase in consumption and a feeling among the sugar manufacturers and the trade that sufficient quantity of sugar would not be available to meet the requirements of the country. The rise was to a certain extent also due to illegal forward trading in sugar.

The total off-take of sugar during the period November to March this year was more than during the corresponding period last year.

(b) With a view to maintaining continuity in the supply of sugar and stability in its prices, Government have taken the following measures:—

- (i) prohibited sugar factories from making contracts for sale of sugar in advance of receipt of release orders.
- (ii) arranged import of sugar in requisite quantity from abroad.
- (iii) arranged supply of sugar throughout the country out of its reserve stock and from the quantities imported from abroad, at a uniform rate of