

if such mode of payment was acceptable to the cane-growers.

(iii) The State Governments were asked to use their good offices in getting the arrears of cane price cleared by the mills as early as possible.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know, Sir, what was the total amount in the beginning payable by the mills to the cane-growers? What was the maximum at any time?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It was rather large. I think it was about a couple of crores. Maybe even more, I am not sure.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Are the agriculturists entitled to interest from these mills for the arrears?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This question is essentially between the State Governments and those people and if there is any demand, I am sure the State Governments will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHORTAGE OF SUGAR IN WESTERN INDIA

*290. **SHRI L. H. DOSHI:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated total production of sugar for the year 1952-53;

(b) whether Government are aware that a shortage of sugar is being experienced in Western India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the movement of sugar has been very slow from North India to West India due to wagon shortage; and

(d) whether it is a fact that releases of sugar from Bombay factories were not given for a long time?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) Between 12 and 13 lakh tons.

(b) and (c). No shortage is being experienced. There was, however, low offtake from sugar factories in October and November, 1952, and the stocks with the Trade in consuming areas had gone down. This was due to expected reduction in sugar prices, and not wagon shortage. Despatches from sugar factories have since been substantially more than the normal consumption requirement, and the stock position in all the areas is very satisfactory.

IMPLEMENTS FOR JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*292. **SHRI CHANNA REDDY:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have made any arrangement for the manufacture and supply of special implements required for rice cultivation according to the Japanese method?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): Yes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned a scheme for the production, on an experimental basis, of some of the implements.

SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

*296. **DR. R. B. GOUR:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soil Conservation Society of India has concluded its first annual session recently; and

(b) if so, what recommendations were made by the society, and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the recommendations is placed on the Table of the House.