

it was envisaged that they will make profit. They are not charitable institutions. But if there is a very high additional profit, certainly the Income-tax department will take care of it. (*Interruption*) But the question as to what will be the future policy will be decided when the complete picture of the sowing of sugarcane is in view. I cannot say now whether it will be complete decontrol or what the policy will be.

SHRI BIREN ROY : But he has not said anything about the price of sugar in other countries.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : What is the highest price prevailing in the free market, in which State does it prevail, and what are the reasons for it ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : The price I have quoted in the main part of the reply refers to a previous period. In fact, at the moment the prices of sugar are much lower than the prices in the period to which the question refers, i.e. between December 1967 and April 1968. At the moment the prices vary between Rs. 300 and Rs. 325.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : The price of sugar in Calcutta is Rs. 4.50 per kilo.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : These are wholesale prices.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If you have the percentage difference, you can give it to the House.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Madam, in that particular period, in the month of April, the maximum prices in certain areas, according to the information available with me, were Rs. 393, Rs. 394, Rs. 401 and like that. The lowest price, Rs. 350, was in Madras. This is in regard to April. Then I have got figures for March. I have got all these figures. If the hon. Members want, I will lay the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Please do.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IN SOUTH

***124. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed to look into the feasibility of holding

Parliamentary Session in the South has since submitted its report,

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No, Madam

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government of India has taken a decision in principle to hold a session of Parliament in the South and, if so, may I know the functions of this Committee and the total expenditure expected to be incurred on this account ?

SHRI A. D. MANI : On the Committee ?

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : On the holding of the session.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Madam, no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard. The Committee has so far met twice and it is likely to submit its report by February next year, and the likely expenditure will be known then.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Has the Government taken decision in principle to hold a session in the South ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Committee is looking into it. How can there be a decision when the Committee is looking into it ?

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that arrangements made for the Members of a Joint Select Committee which met recently in Bangalore were so unsatisfactory and the facilities were so inadequate that even some of those who were in favour of a session being held in the South, do not want it now because there is no hospitality and there are no adequate arrangements ?

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Not true, not true, Mr. Mani.

(No reply)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : I wanted an answer.

(No reply)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

†**PROCUREMENT OF RAW JUTE FOR BUFFER STOCK**

***5 SHRI M. M. DHARIA:‡**

SHRI A G KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up by Government to suggest machinery for procurement of raw jute for building up a buffer stock has submitted any report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the recommendations have been implemented; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE) : (a) to (d) The High Powered Committee on Export Oriented Agricultural Commodities had set up a Sub-Committee to examine the question of buffer stocks for jute. The Sub-Committee has just submitted its Report to the High Powered Committee, which has yet to consider the Report.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to set up two corporations, one for jute and one for cotton and, if so, what would be their functions ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : The Government has tentatively come to the conclusion that it would be worthwhile setting up such corporations for the marketing of jute and cotton. The other implications will have to be examined in detail. The main function of the corporations would be to see that a fair price is ensured to the farmers and at the same time, when the commodities are available in the market, a buffer stock is made so

that the necessary supply of raw material is ensured to the industry in times of difficulty also. That is the main approach.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, is the Government aware that if such a corporation is to be set up, then not only procurement, but production, processing marketing and all these functions shall have to be observed by this corporation? Otherwise, it may not be possible for us to have adequate indigenous production of raw jute and to boost export prospects which are becoming bleak in our country.

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : Sir, the suggestion will be kept in view, but as far as the processing part is concerned, I do not think the corporation can go into that. But all these things can be examined.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, so far as processing is concerned, ultimately it will be the endeavour of the Government to transfer these processing industries to the producers. From that point of view, if the corporation is not going to look into that...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : My question is based on the policy of the Government. If the corporation is not going to look after processing, then naturally these producers will never become processors.

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : May I say that if any producers in any part of the country want to set up a mill on a co-operative basis, we shall have to encourage it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The hon. Minister has stated that the establishment of this corporation is for giving protection to growers as well as for supplying jute to the manufacturers. Now in 1966-67, the production was 76 lakh bales and the prices went down because of speculative dumping by the jute magnates. Now the production is 62 lakh bales and the price has gone up, and we are importing. So this haphazard policy is always working to the detriment of the industry as well as the growers. May I know, in this connection, whether the Government, in implementing the recommendations of the Committee, keep in view the question of a fair price and a good return to the growers of jute ?

†Transferred from the 22nd July, 1968.

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. M. Dharia.