

उधार वाले घंघे को पी०एल०-480 की तरह से अपने बजट की आमदनी का एक जरिया बना रही है क्या ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Only a part of the fertilisers is imported from the USA; the rest of the imports are from East European and West European countries, Japan and Canada. As far as the current year is concerned, in the case of nitrogen, only 24 per cent would be imported from the USA and that has nothing to do with PL-480.

Decontrol of Sugar

- *784. **SHRI G. C. NAIK:**
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI S. XAVIER:
SHRI R. K. AMIN:
SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM:
SHRI J. H. PATEL:
SHRI D. R. PARMAR:
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Manufacturers Association in their recent meetings in New Delhi have demanded complete decontrol of the Sugar Industry;

(b) whether Government have studied their demands;

(c) whether an initiative is being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The Association pleaded for a freer sugar policy, with the ultimate objective of decontrolling sugar on a long term basis.

(b) to (d). The sugar policy to be adopted for the next year is under consideration of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to bring one thing to the notice of the House. Very often, the number of members whose names are clubbed together in one question is large. In the previous question it was 8; in this one, it is 10. Even if two or three supplementaries are asked by the member who actually puts the question and at least one question is allowed to the others, it takes up a lot of time by this system. So if you would agree, I would remit this matter to the Rules Committee for review.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Several hon. members have approached me in this connection, saying that they do not get their turn. It is for the Rules Committee to decide.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: You kindly apply the rule of relevance and repetition.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You know that previously one question was signed by many members. Now it is done separately. It is not signed by many. Fortunately, great men think alike and naturally their names are clubbed together and certain questions come in that way. It will be an injustice to us if our names are removed.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly discuss it in the Rules Committee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There is the Rules Committee. How can this House supersede everything I cannot understand.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not followed me. A number of hon. members approached me in my chamber saying that they do not get their turn because of the large number of names clubbed together in one single question. I said I was helpless, this was the practice already allowed by the Rules Committee, if at all anybody could change it, it was the Rules Committee and I had nothing to do with it.

SHRI RANGA: This is not the time when we can discuss this. You raise this point and we do not have an opportunity of saying anything contradictory. You make a suggestion all of a sudden. I can go on mentioning the earlier practice and saying something on it. But is this the proper time for this? Let us take it up at the right time. You are raising it at a time when we cannot make our observations.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him not misunderstand me.

SHRI G. C. NAIK: May I know Sir, the retail price of sugar in the open market and the controlled sugar price in the capital cities and other parts of the country. Also the price at which the sugar is exported and the impact of which the control has on the export of sugar? Has the Government examined the healthy effect on general prices and production of sugar in case the entire sugar was decontrolled as demanded by the sugar manufacturers?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As I have said, the policy for next year is under the consideration of Government. (*Interruption*).

SHRI R. K. AMIN: May I know specifically from the minister whether the policy of partial decontrol has had a salutary effect on increasing production of sugarcane and sugar in the country? May I also know his reaction to the suggestion that part of the excise duty revenue be set apart for increasing productivity of sugarcane?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: About the first part of the question, it has been definitely proved that because of the adoption of partial decontrol, we have been able to increase the sugarcane acreage and also to increase the availability of cane to the factories. That is why sugar production went up from 22.5 to 35.5 lakh tonnes. Regarding the latter part of the question about excise

duty, that is a much wider issue. There is a cane cess levied by State Governments and it has been the approach of the Government of India that that cess should be utilised for development of cane by the State Governments.

SHRI J. MOHAMAD IMAM: Is it not a fact that controls bring about scarcity, destroy free market and create black market and also afford an excellent opportunity for those who are in charge of control to misuse their position and indulge in anti-national activities? Is it not a fact that this control policy will always breed suspicion in the minds of the public and also increase the price of the commodity that is controlled? Soon after decontrol of sugar, various speculations were made and placards were displayed in Bombay saying, "Do you know your socialist leader? He has made much money through the decontrol of sugar." To avoid all this, will Government think of decontrolling sugar entirely and creating a free market, especially in view of the fact that there is adequate supply of sugar?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have replied already to the major policy issue involved in this question.

SHRI J. H. PATEL spoke in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER: We do not know whether it is a speech or a question! (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My hon. friend has put a question in Kannada. He has done it in the past also. The previous Speaker had given an assurance on the floor of the House that all south Indian languages will be simultaneously interpreted. That has not yet been done. He should get an answer from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He will get a written reply.

SHRI J. H. PATEL spoke in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER: What I understand is—this is what I can guess—that you want a reply. I have not followed your question; the hon. Minister has not followed your question. You seem to understand my **English**. Are you following it? (*Interruptions*) In respect of such questions which are not understandable to the Chair or to the Minister, the only alternative is to send a written reply.

SHRI J. H. PATEL spoke in *Kannada*.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: He should get a reply. It is his right. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): It should be applicable to Members who are not able to follow either English or Hindi. Now, the presumption is—if the hon. Member does not know either **English** or Hindi, how is he in a position to put a supplementary arising out of the answers that have been given? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is his right to put it in *Kannada*. Even in the past, it has been done. He should get a reply. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: The hon. Member has put a supplementary in *Kannada* to convince the Speaker to arrange immediately the simultaneous interpretation of various South Indian languages on the floor of the House. If the Speaker can give an assurance that it is coming soon, he will not insist on the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: In respect of the questions or the speeches that are made in languages which either the Chair or the Minister does not understand, the only alternative is to get it translated and send a written reply to the Member.

We are making some arrangements for simultaneous interpretation and I hope, we will do it soon.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: We want a categorical assurance from the Chair.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: The previous Speaker had promised that it would be done. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I am told, something is being done. If you want to be very sure about it, you can come and meet me in my chamber. I shall let you know. I think, we will be able to do it very soon.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: In view of the fall in the price of sugar and stocks being sufficient, the situation is ideal for decontrol. From the answers of the hon. Minister it appears that they are seriously considering the question of decontrol of sugar. I would request the hon. Minister to let the House know as to when he proposes to announce the policy decision with regard to decontrol. Secondly, would he consider revising the excise duty on sugar so that the price paid to cane-growers may be increased?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We shall announce the policy well before the new season starts. As to the second part, I do not think that excise duty has anything to do with sugar-cane price.

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY: In view of the fact that there is a considerable difference between the price of levy sugar and that of free sugar, may I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the apprehension expressed in a major section of the society to the effect that complete decontrol of sugar might lead to hoarding and, consequently, exploitation of the consumers in India?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Government would take into consideration all these factors before coming to any conclusion.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: This move for complete decontrol has been hatched by the sugar magnates in a conspiracy. I want to caution the ministers about that. Even when Government has fixed Rs. 73 a tonne

as the minimum price they have put forward a case for payment according to the recovery and in some areas factories are permitted to pay even Rs. 40 or 44, specially in my State. In order to help the growers and to help the increased production of sugar, they should not completely de-control sugar. If they want to de-control sugar, let Government fix a minimum price for sugarcane as well as for sugar taking into consideration the manufacturing cost of sugar and then lift the entire control; otherwise, it will lead to jeopardy and loss in the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this point will be taken into consideration before making any announcement in the matter of policy about sugar.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: All aspects will be taken into consideration before Government comes to the final decision regarding the sugar policy for the coming season. As regards payment of sugarcane price below the minimum price, if cases like that have been there, I will advise that such factories should be prosecuted by the State Government for paying less than the minimum price.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: They got your permission and after that they are paying less than that.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: There cannot be any permission to pay below the minimum price.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Some of the factories in my State have been permitted by the Sugar Directorate, Government of India, to pay Rs. 44 for the recovery of 5 per cent. Kindly make an investigation.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Whatever be the instructions, anybody who violates and pays less than the minimum price is liable to prosecution.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY: You have permitted.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Nobody can permit that.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: With regard to the collection of sugarcane cess for the development of the sugar industry in the country, may I know whether Government has got any information that the cess collected by the various State Governments has been utilised for the development of the sugar industry?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have considerable information to this effect. This has been raised from time to time but our policy has been that State Governments should spend all the amount, or the major portion of it, for cane development.

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस प्रकार से चीनी उत्पादकों के द्वारा गन्ना उत्पादकों और चीनी उपभोक्ताओं की खुली बाट होती है उसको देखते हुए चीनी मिलों के राष्ट्रीयकरण की कोई योजना केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचारधीन है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: No, Sir; at the moment there is no such proposal.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: As the hon. Member from the D. M. K. Party suggested—I will put it in another language—may I know whether the Government is considering a proposal of controlling the price of sugarcane as well as that of raising the price of market sugar so that there is no difference in the price of sugar sold in rural areas and urban areas at controlled rate. Is there any proposal to control the price of sugarcane as well as the price of sugar?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been replied to earlier. This is the same question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that 150 MLAs of the U. P. Legislative Assembly have demanded nationalisation of sugar industry.

Because the Chief Minister is in league with the sugar industry magnates, he has not written to the Central Government. In view of this, will the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture take notice of this demand of 150 MLAs of U. P. and consider this matter in all its seriousness?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have not received any proposal from the U. P. Government or anybody else.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The Chief Minister is in league with the sugar industry magnates. That is why he will not do it.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: The Government is going to decontrol sugar and the prices may go down. When the prices go down, the sugar factories will not be in a position to pay the minimum price of Rs. 100 per tonne. May I know from the Government whether they are going to fix the price of sugar in such a way that the sugar factories are able to pay the minimum price of Rs. 100 per tonne to the sugarcane growers? Otherwise, the sugar factories are able to pay the minimum price of Rs. 100 per tonne to the sugarcane growers? Otherwise, the sugar factories will pay only Rs. 86 per tonne. May I know from the Government what steps they are going to take to see that the minimum price of Rs. 100 per tonne is maintained?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Rs. 100 per tonne was never the minimum price fixed. The hon. Member is misinformed about the position. He is a very knowledgeable person. I wonder how he is misinformed. The minimum price is Rs. 7.37 per quintal linked with the recovery of 9.4 per cent. That is the minimum price. The Government does not propose to fix the minimum price of Rs. 100.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: The Government have issued the

orders; they have recommended to pay Rs. 100. Why can't you do it?

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: Sugar is an article of food for growing children. It should be available to consumers at controlled rates. I understand some of the State Governments have asked the Centre to give more quotas for sale of sugar in the open market. According to official figures, during the period of four months between 1st October, 1968 and 1st January, 1969, 24 cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra sold 59,179.4 tonnes of sugar in open market and this fetched them a fortune of Rs. 18,24,48,000. Had they sold the same quantity of sugar to the Government at the controlled price for distribution by ration shops to consumers, they would have got only Rs. 8,43,22,000. This means that cooperative sugar factories earned a profit of about Rs. 9,81,26,000 in four months.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: May I know whether the Maharashtra Government has asked the Central Government to allot them more quota of sugar to be sold through cooperative sugar factories in the open market and earn more profit? Will the Government release more quota of sugar to be sold at controlled price by ration shops to consumers?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As compared to quotas released for controlled distribution during the last year, considerable increases have been made in the quotas released this year. For instance, last year, the total monthly quota released was roughly 1.66 lakh tonnes. As against that, the total release, both controlled and free sugar, is to the tune of 2.6 lakh tonnes this year. The quantities which are being released this year are more than those of last year.