

Shri Raj Bahadur: Mutual concession in regard to freight cannot be given by the conference. I do not know what they are going to arrive at.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Have the Government seriously considered this aspect that in case this Conference decides on an upward revision of freight it may have a very adverse effect on our export programme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not know on what basis the hon. Members presume that we are not very seriously concerned about it. In fact, we have taken ample care to see that no upward revision of freight takes place without any reason. Some two years back we have, in fact, advised that there should be a basis for increase in freight, whenever it is contemplated. Everything should proceed according to that.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Have the Government on their part formulated any specific scheme or proposals in respect of freight rates and, if so, is the Minister in a position to give us a broad indication of that position?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No indication is possible. But, we will surely consider the views expressed by the conference. Apart from that, it should be realised that these conferences are autonomous bodies and our companies are members thereof. As Members they can express opinions. If the conference takes a decision to make upward revision of freight, the only remedy is to ask our companies to come out of that conference. We have got no administrative control over the conference. But, there is an agreed basis of functioning according to which they function. We hope that nothing will be done to unnecessarily jeopardise the interests of our foreign trade.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

रुई उत्पादन का लक्ष्य

*७६२. श्री बे० शि० पाटिल : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने का कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ताम्ररी योजना अवधि में रुई उत्पादन का लक्ष्य बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस को कितना बढ़ाने का विचार है ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(डा० राम सुभग सिंह : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता ।

[(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.]

श्री बे० शि० पाटिल : ताम्ररी योजना में कपास में वृद्धि का क्या अनुमान लगाया गया है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : ताम्ररी योजना में कपास का उत्पादन लक्ष्य ७० लाख बेल्ट है ।

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a recent report to the effect that the Planning Commission has considered the steps so far taken for the production of cotton as inadequate and whether any further steps have been taken by the Government to raise the output?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : अगर माननीय सदस्य पिछले वर्ष के उत्पादन का आंकड़ा देखेंगे तो पायेंगे कि केवल ४५ लाख बेल्ट रुई हुई थी, १९६१-६२ में । इस माल कम से कम ५४ लाख गांठ रुई होंगी । इस प्रकार नौ लाख गांठ कम से कम उत्पादन में वृद्धि हुई है । हो सकता है कि यह वृद्धि दस लाख गांठ तक पहुंच जाये । यह समझना कि उत्पादन में वृद्धि नहीं हो रही है, बिल्कुल वाजिब नहीं है ।

श्री तुलसीदास जाधव : बाहर से कपास मंगाने के बजाय यहां पर ही ऊंचे टारगेट फिक्स करके ज्यादा पैदा करने की कोशिश क्यों नहीं सरकार की तरफ से की जाती है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : इस बात पर मैं विचार करूंगा और इस को कार्यान्वित करने का यत्न भी करूंगा ।

Shri P. R. Patel: I want to know whether the Government is aware that the import of cotton under P.L. 480 in large quantities adversely affects production of cotton here.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is to some extent correct. But, as the hon. Member might appreciate, last year, the total production of cotton was only 45 lakhs bales. The annual consumption of our textile factories is from 53, to 56 lakh bales. So, we had to take resort to the import programme. Because, had we not imported cotton last year, our mills would have been starved. That was necessary last year. Now we will keep this in mind.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know besides increasing production of cotton, what steps the Agriculture Ministry is taking to increase the quality and per acre production of cotton?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are trying to introduce better seeds and provide better irrigation and fertiliser facilities. Added to that, we want to give better prices for our cotton so that the farmers may have a suitable incentive to increase the per acre yield of cotton as well as to grow better varieties.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is now agreed by everybody that greater agricultural production depends on remunerative prices for the growers. This year, the cotton growers, because they produced more, have had a very bad experience. What is the Government's proposal to counteract such similar circumstances for the next year?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Agriculture Ministry has taken measures and that has now been accepted by our other colleagues and that would be announced within a week perhaps. We are going to give incentive in terms of prices also. The floor is going to be increased. We will watch the trends on our production and markets and try to link up prices in a suitable manner.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Has the Government realised or not that prices of cotton generally are low when the cotton is in the hands of farmers and they generally rise after it goes from the hands of the farmers to the merchants? Is there any step in the contemplation of Government to remove this difficulty?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We realise this difficulty and we are constantly paying our attention. We consulted the hon. Members from the cotton-growing States also twice this year, and on the basis of their suggestions, we have made certain suggestions to our other colleagues and to the Planning Commission. Most of those suggestions have been accepted, and they will be announced within a week or so.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : जो कपास हम बाहर से मंगते हैं, वह हमारे भाव से कितनी महंगी पड़ती है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : वह बहुत महंगी नहीं पड़ती है । मगर पिछले वर्ष चूंकि ४५ लाख गांठ हुई थी, इसलिए मंगानी पड़ी थी । इस साल कोई ज्यादा मंगानी नहीं पड़ेगी । इस का कारण यह है कि करीब ५४ लाख गांठ हमारी उपज है और ५४-५५ लाख गांठ की खपत होगी अपनी मिलों में । लेकिन थोड़ी सी देसी काटन भेजी जायेगी और विदेशी मंगाई जायेगी ।