

ब्लॉक में एलाटिड है, वह खर्च नहीं हो रहा है

Shri Shinde: The hon. Member's contention is not true, because it does not depend only upon the Block Development Officer to implement the irrigation schemes.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether the Government have considered the advisability of consulting the representatives of all parties at the State level and also at the central level in making selections for the development of minor irrigation projects?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): That is a suggestion for action. So far as the Government of India is concerned, surely I would accept it without any hesitation.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the Government has considered it. It is not a suggestion.

Shri S. K. Patil: It has not been done so far; therefore, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the suggestion.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether before launching all such schemes of minor and major irrigation works any river basin-wise or State-wise surveys are conducted in order to ascertain the total resources of water per basin or per State?

Shri S. K. Patil: These surveys have taken place and are taking place. The schemes are really devised by the States themselves and, of course, we go in to co-operate so far as money is concerned.

Rise in Price of Sugar

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- *3. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar markets throughout the country have shown a marked rise in prices during the past few days;

(b) if so, the latest position of prices, both whole-sale and retail, in important centres of trade in the country; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check such rise in prices?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been some rise in prices.

(b) A statement giving latest whole-sale and retail prices of sugar in important markets is given below.

STATEMENT

Market	Prices of sugar	
	Wholesale per md.	Retail per seer
	Rs.	
Delhi . . .	42.2	1.08
Jullundur . . .	40.7	1.04
Kanpur . . .	40.8	1.05
Patna . . .	40.6	1.06
Calcutta . . .	43.3	1.11
Indore . . .	42.8	1.10
Bombay . . .	43.0	1.11
Madras . . .	43.9	1.11
Bangalore . . .	43.7	1.12
Nagpur . . .	43.7	1.10
Hyderabad . . .	42.9	1.10
Ahmedabad . . .	42.9	1.10

(c) A release of 2.25 lakh metric tons announced on 8th February, 1963 as against the usual release of 2 lakh metric tons. The release was also given a week in advance of the usual time of release.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Arising out of the reply given to part (a) of the question, may I know the reasons that have led to the rise in prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): One of the reasons is that the commodity market for grains has really become as delicate as the stock market. When the stock goes or somebody says that

the amount of sugar this year is going to be a little less, that is enough for the prices to rise, although in fact there is enough sugar in the country and there is no reason for that. But this is being regulated by the regulated releases, and as the statement shows these releases are being stepped up and if necessary we can step up the releases to any extent in order to regulate the prices.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: The prices prevailing in different markets vary from Rs. 40 to Rs. 43 per maund. May I know how these prices compare with the prices that were there for the same period last year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The pre-decontrol price was Rs. 37.85 nP. per maund ex-factory. In the south it was more because they had the freight advantage. As far as the present level of prices is concerned, there has been this burden of the Wage Board award and there has also been a higher cost of production because of the fact that the season has been less. All these facts are there besides the bullish tendency which was referred to by my senior colleague.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि वर्ल्ड मार्केट में चीनी का दाम ४९ रुपया एक टन में मिलता है और उसी का असर है कि हिन्दुस्तान के जो चीनी मिल मालिक हैं, वे चीनी के दाम बढ़ा रहे हैं ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : हो सकता है कि उसका थोड़ा असर हो। अभी तो दाम कुछ बढ़ गए हैं, इसको मैं मानता हूँ। पचास से ऊपर चले गये हैं। लेकिन वह टैम्पोरेरी फिनोमिना है। हमेशा ऐसा रहेगा, यह मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। लेकिन उसका असर हमारी प्राइसिस पर हो सकता है।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: When the sugar released has got a fixed price, may I know why there is so much difference in the price per maund in various States?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Now there is no fixed price. There is no control, except the regulation of sugar releases, on the prices of sugar. With regard to higher prices I must say that it also depends upon the quality of the sugar, because for a better quality sugar there is always a better price.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the fact that we have a surplus one million tons of sugar, what steps have we taken to bring down the price of sugar?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As the hon. House knows, the mechanism with the Government now is the mechanism of release. This is being utilized fully.

Shri Tyagi: Is the rise in price of sugar not due to the fact that the sugarcane areas allotted to each sugar factory were curtailed and the sugar factories were asked not to crush more sugar, which they complied with for the past few years? If so how much of reduction in production do they expect this year?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The regulation was for the year 1961-62. As far as 1962-63 is concerned, there is no regulation. The factories were permitted to crush as much as they possibly could.

Shri Tyagi: My question has not been answered. I was also speaking of the previous year. What was the shortage or reduction on account of that regulation?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As the hon. House knows, there was a crisis of surplus, as the hon. Member himself described it, at one time and the production had to be brought down. So, we resorted to the control of the area under sugarcane cultivation by a reduction of 10 per cent. But virtually it amounted to a reduction of only 4 per cent. For the next year we did not impose any regulation.

Shri A. P. Jain: Have Government taken any steps to see that the quotas released by them are properly sold by the mill owners?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes. If they do not sell, the releases would be cut.

श्री राम सेनक यादव : स्टेटमेंट में दिया हुआ है कि दिल्ली में चीनी का मूल्य एक रुपया भाठ नए पैसा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि साऊथ एवेन्यू में चीनी एक रुपया पचास नए पैसे बिक रही है ?

Mr. Speaker: That has already been answered.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it correct to say that the sugar mills are responsible for creating this artificial price rise by restricting the release of sugar from mills, as suggested by the Indian Sugar Mills Association to the Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, Sir. We keep a careful watch over the level of prices and we regulate the releases in such a manner as to see that when the prices go up sufficient sugar is being released into the market. There is no question of being influenced by the Sugar Mills Association.

Railway Lines in North Eastern Region

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*4. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 { Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 930 on the 22nd January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for doubling of railway track and conversion of metre gauge lines to broad gauge in the North Eastern Region on an emergency basis;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the action taken so far towards the implementation of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The entire question of improving rail communication with North Bengal and Assam is under examination.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether a memorandum was presented to the hon. Minister of Railways by the Members of Parliament from Assam, detailing the bottlenecks suffered by the Indian railways in the NEFA region in November last and, if so, whether any of the proposals contained in the memorandum have been accepted by Government for inclusion in their schemes?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): It is a fact that a memorandum was handed over to me. This matter is under active examination. It was already being examined and this was an added reason why it should be examined more carefully after the receipt of that memorandum.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Government of Assam has proposed the conversion from metre-gauge to broad-gauge of the Siliguri-Gauhati line across the Brahmaputra and the Minister of Economic and Defence Co-ordination, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, has also recommended that scheme?

Shri Swaran Singh: The hon. Member is giving more information than he is asking. It is a fact that the Assam Government have put forward that viewpoint. The whole matter is under very active consideration.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it not a fact that some years back a Committee of Experts and engineers appointed by the Government of India suggested improvement of railway facilities, including broad gauge lines, in that region because of the strategic importance of that area? May I know why Government have taken so many years over it and even now they are in a fix?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am not aware which particular body of experts the hon. Member is referring to.

Shri Hem Barua: The one appointed in your predecessor's regime.

Shri Swaran Singh: But on the whole the transport needs of that area, even during the emergency, were