

or are in conformity with existing practice and are being acted upon.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, प्रश्न के खंड (ख) के उत्तर में बतलाया गया कि अभी यह नहीं बतलाया जा सकता कि कमेटी कब अपनी रिपोर्ट देगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कमेटी ने अपनी प्रारंभ से कोई कारण बतलाये हैं डा के लिये या कोई समय निर्धारित किया है कि कब वह अपनी रिपोर्ट दे सकेगी? तथा कौन सी विशेष अड़चन पड़ रही हैं जिनके कारण इतनी देरी हो रही है?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They are touring all round. They have already gone round four Railway Administrations and are going round the other four. They have to collect a mass of evidence. Therefore, how long it will take we are not in a position to say now.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the special *ad hoc* organisation of the Railways consisting of safety councillors, as recommended by the Kunzru Committee, has been constituted; if not, what is the Government's decision on that?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They have not yet been constituted. The recommendation has been received barely a month ago and we are trying to look into it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Minister said that seven recommendations had been made for implementation and that there are observations and other things—he has made a distinction between these. Anyhow, may I know as to how many of these recommendations for implementation have been put into effect by this time and, if they have not been put into effect, by what time these will be put into action?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The seven items refer to certain intricate matters which are under consideration. As regards the rest, in some cases orders

have been issued and in the case of the rest they will be issued in due course.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I want to know what has happened to those seven concrete recommendations. I am not talking about the observations and other things.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As I submitted, there are 7 recommendations which are under consideration of the Board.

Shri A. P. Sharma: What are the recommendations of the Kunzru Committee to increase personal contact with the staff to educate them in safety consciousness? What steps have Government taken about those recommendations?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The recommendations have been placed on the Table of the Sabha along with the views of the Board. The hon. Member may kindly go through them.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे रैनिजेंट्स कमेटी के मेम्बरान को टी० ए० और डी० ए० ज्यादा से ज्यादा दिया जा रहा है लेकिन वह छः महीने बाद भी डिस्मिशन नहीं दे रहे हैं? भत्ता उड़ा रहे हैं पर काम कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Cotton Growers

*6. **Shri D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 3rd week of January 1963, he met some Members of Parliament and assured them that his Ministry jointly with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry would devise ways and means on a long term basis for safeguarding the interest of the Cotton growers;

(b) whether the Indian Central Cotton Committee also discussed this issue in its meeting held on the 16th February, 1963; and

(c) if so, the measures devised so far for the purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) There was a general discussion on this issue at the meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee on the 16th February, 1963.

(c) The measures so far adopted are:

- (i) Removal of restrictions on the movement of cotton which had been imposed earlier in the season in certain areas of Maharashtra;
- (ii) Adequate quotas have been allotted to the mills which will take care of all the crop that will come in the market by the end of March, 1963;
- (iii) The number of Survey Committees has been increased and wherever possible representatives of growers have been taken on the Survey Committees.
- (iv) Some anomalies in the classification of Cotton under the Cotton Control Order for the year 1962-63 have already been removed. Some others are under consideration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (v) Mills are required to buy 5% of their consumption of long staple cotton in 1960-61 from certain areas in which there has been some difficulty in selling the cotton.
- (vi) The question of raising the floor price of Cotton is under the consideration of the Government with a view to narrowing down the difference

between the floor and ceiling prices.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: In the statement in item (iv) of (c) it has been stated that some anomalies have been removed. I want to know which anomalies have been removed already, and what remains to be removed yet, and what effect it has on the growers.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, the Members of Parliament from the cotton-growing States, who met the Minister of Food and Agriculture on 8th December, 1962 and 20th January, 1963 made six specific suggestions, and they were forwarded to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, and that Ministry has removed the restrictions on movement of cotton that were imposed by the Textile Commissioner, immediately, and they are examining the other suggestions also. They also agreed, as has been said in the statement that adequate quotas allotted to the mills which will take care of all the crops that will come in the market by the end of March, 1963. This was also one of the recommendations. Of the 6 recommendations, three have been accepted, because they are also examining the question of raising the floor price of cotton.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: In item (v) of (c) it has been stated that the mills will buy 5 per cent of their requirements from certain areas. What will be the total purchase in those areas, and what amount of cotton will be purchased from the growers, and how much will remain with them?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Now, we have, in consultation with the Commerce and Industry Ministry, finalised the system, and all the mills will purchase the entire cotton crop of this year. So, there would not be any difficulty. The reference to the five per cent does not mean that 95 per cent of long-staple cotton will remain with the growers. They will have to purchase and they will themselves purchase the entire stock before the expiry of the season.

Shri Iqbal Singh: May I know whether in spite of the removal of these difficulties, the cotton prices still remain low and there are very few purchasers in the market?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said earlier, if the hon. Member wants the price figures of 19 varieties of cotton, I can give them, and it has been our effort to ensure that the growers get a reasonable price for their cotton, and after the meeting of the Members of Parliament with the Minister of Food and Agriculture, the prices did show some trend towards increase, and we shall see that in no way are the growers put to any difficulty.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid it has not increased.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know whether Government are aware of the difficulties of obtaining cotton seeds in Gujarat which is a large cotton-growing area, and as a result the prices of cotton have fallen down?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We have been thinking about ensuring to obtain good quality seed of cotton. The cotton seed that was being distributed so far was also good, but there has been some doubt, and now we are taking suitable measures to grow quality cotton seed and certified cotton seed will be supplied to all the cotton-growing areas and particularly Gujarat.

Shri Daji: Are Government aware of the great distress that the farmers are facing because of the calculated delay on the part of the textile mills to purchase cotton from them, and may I know what steps are being taken to meet this difficulty?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Member was also there, and he is associated with the workers' organisation of some textile factories also. I trust that he will exercise his influence to help the cotton growers as we have been doing.

Shri Daji: My question is specific. There is no reply to it. This is an all-India phenomenon. There is a calculated move on the part of textile mills to delay purchase of cotton, thereby cutting down the prices and putting the growers in difficulties. I will do my best, but what steps are Government taking in this matter?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Government took the first step; when we came to know that some restrictions had been imposed, immediately the Members from all the cotton-growing areas were invited by the Minister of Food and Agriculture for a discussion. The hon. Member was also invited, but perhaps he had no time to attend that meeting. Whatever suggestions were given by the Members, they were all accepted by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. We are doing our best to have all those suggestions properly implemented. Due to these efforts, some increase has been effected in the price of cotton.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: It has come out in the daily press that the hon. Minister of State indicated in Bombay that the Government had it in contemplation to compel textile mills to lift long staple and short staple cotton of all the growers. How far has any step been taken in that direction?

Shri Daji: That was what I also asked.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I said at that meeting that for the sake of the nation as well as for improving the conditions of the growers, it was necessary that textile mills should purchase the entire cotton crop at reasonable prices and in case anybody failed to do that, Government might have to compel them to do so.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is the meaning of 'might'?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Because I had invited Shri Kamath also to that meeting.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is beside the point. After all, we cannot attend every meeting. Invitation is all right.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Is it that because Shri Kamath was there, the word 'might' was used?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No, Sir. We want to formulate our policy and to implement it as expeditiously as possible and we want to take every Member fully into confidence. But if they do not tender any advice, and when action is taken in accordance with the advice tendered by 90 per cent of the representatives of the cotton growing areas, I think they should accept it. At that meeting, I talked about compulsion, but I hope that the textile mills will themselves come forward and purchase the entire cotton crop. I will see that the entire crop, whether of Indore or of Hoshangabad, wherefrom the two hon. Members come, is purchased in time before March.

Shri Ranga: I am glad we are having these assurances from my hon. friend. But so much depends upon the implementation thereof. I do not know which other Ministries are involved in this. When the mills are assured of production of cotton from certain areas, why is it that Government find it so difficult to persuade them to agree to pay reasonable prices to the cotton growers and also to lift all the cotton that is being produced by them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): My hon. colleague has said that everything that is possible is being done. But I would just amplify that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is that 'possible'?

Shri S. K. Patil: The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible only for the production of cotton, and the other Ministry for the other things. But I am not bringing in that plea. Both the Ministries are acting in concert,

so that wherever it is necessary, and the cotton-growers' interests are being affected, we approach the Ministry, take their co-operation in getting these things done. What is attempted to be done is this, that if the persuasion does not succeed, then compulsion inevitably becomes necessary, but I am quite sure that this will be a hint and a warning to the mill-owners, and if they do not take it in time, the other thing will necessarily follow.

Payment of Sugarcane Price

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*9. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri Bibbuti Mishra:
Shri Bade:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable amount of sugarcane price of the sugarcane supplied to the sugar mills in 1961-62 season has not been paid by the Sugar factories concerned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps for its immediate payment; and

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for compensation of the loss to the growers' unions owing to non-payment of the sugarcane price?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). Rs. 99 lakhs were payable on 31st January, 1963. This works out to less than 1% of the total cane-price payable for 1961-62.

(c) The State Governments have been asked to take necessary action for expeditious clearance of the arrears.

(d) No, Sir.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether Government proposes to take any step which may force sugar factory owners to pay the amount