

ताकि गन्ना सूखे नहीं और खांड भी बन सके ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is a matter for the State Government to consider to give licences for those areas where there is no demand for sugarcane.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : उनको कुछ कहेंगे ऐसी स्थिति में ?

जय्य महोदय : क्यों नहीं कहेंगे । आपने कहा तो वह भी आगे कहेंगे ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it is a fact that after the concession had been given to the sugar industry they have neither reduced the cost of production nor have they given higher prices to the sugarcane growers. If so, what steps are being taken by Government to see that they agree at least to do one of these two things?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The production has increased during this period. As a matter of fact, now some of the sugar factories are able to transport cane from a longer distance because they have got this concession. Therefore production has considerably increased in many of the factories.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have not asked about production. He has not replied to my question at all. I have not asked about more production. I have asked about the cost of production, whether the cost of production has been brought down.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought, I had answered the question; but if the hon. Member asks the question again and if I have missed any point, I am prepared to answer it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The sugar industry has been given concession after concession. Have they reduced the cost of production after getting this concession or have they paid more money to the cultivators?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This has nothing to do with the cost of pro-

duction; it is in excise duty that we have given concessions. The cost of production depends on the efficiency of each mill.

Rice Mills

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Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
 *335. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri Kolla Venkalah:
Shri Koya:
Shri Ravindra Varma:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
Shri Parashar:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that orders have been placed with East Germany and Japan for the import of six modern rice mills to increase milling outturn of rice from paddy;

(b) if so, the estimated capital outlay involved thereby; and

(c) whether these mills will be operated upon by the newly set up Food Corporation of India or the machinery allotted to the State Governments for setting up the mills in the co-operative sector?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) The orders have been placed with West Germany and Japan for the import of six modern rice mills to increase the milling outturn of rice from paddy.

(b) The estimated fixed capital outlay is Rs. 137 lakhs. This amount is for equipment, land, buildings, silo construction and other connected miscellaneous expenditure.

(c) Five of these six modern rice mills will be operated by the Co-operative societies in five Intensive Agriculture Development Programme areas while the remaining one rice

mill will be operated in public sector by the Government of Bihar.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know how much time the Government is likely to take to get these mills established and to get the production started? The season of rice will be over soon.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I expect the first mill to go into production sometime next month. That will be in Madras. Other mills will go into production within a period of 2 to 3 months after that.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether some co-operative organisations and co-operative marketing societies have made the request that the number of mills is not enough and that it should be increased to twelve?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is only a pilot scheme to find out whether the claims made on behalf of these units are true. If it is so, it is not only twelve but our idea is to go in for large numbers so that we may have all the milling done by these more efficient units.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : सरकार को पता तो है ही कि यू० पी० में रुड़की तहसील चावल का सब से बड़ा सेंटर है। तो क्या इन छः मिलों में से कोई मिल रुड़की में भी लगाने का विचार है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir. We shall consider the claims of all the others when we increase the number of units in the near future.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Keeping in view the fact that the co-operatives have come to play a very important part in setting up the co-operative stores specially for food crops, may I know whether the Government has devised any scheme of giving special facilities to the co-operatives to run these mills?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Output of these 6 mills 5 are being established by co-operative marketing societies.

Shri Ranga: May I know, in view the fact that there is already too much idle capacity in so far as the rice milling industry is concerned and all that is needed for rice mills is being till now manufactured in our own country, why is it that Government have thought it fit to invest as much as Rs. 137 lakhs in importing these things from abroad?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Rs. 137 lakhs is not the foreign cost. It is including the internal cost of land, building and various other things. The external cost is much less. It is claimed that these modern units are able to give 7 to 8 per cent more output of rice when compared to the mills which are functioning in the country today. If these claims are true, even by working during one season, they will be able to make up the entire amount of Rs. 137 lakhs. That is why we are now establishing these units to find out whether there will be 7 to 8 per cent saving and, if that is so, there will be a case to go in for more mills so that there will be a saving with regard to the production of rice.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know how far these modernised rice mills, on a large scale, are going to replace the hand-pounding industry and whether there will be any unemployment as a result thereof?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It will take a long time to displace hand-pounding industry. As a matter of fact, this is going out of use now. And now alternative employments are also becoming available. Still in some parts of the country hand-pounding is in vogue on a large scale. It will take a long time, at least one generation, to displace it.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Will it create any unemployment?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It will not create unemployment.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अभी श्री रंगा के प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 6 या

7 परसेंट चावल की पैदावार बढ़ जायेगी । तो इस समय हमारे देश में जो चावल मिलें हैं अगर उनको मॉडर्नाइज कर दिया जाये तो क्या सरकार को इस तरह का कोई लाभ नहीं हो सकता है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: After establishing these units and then finding out how they work, we can then make a review to find out whether the existing mills cannot be modernised or new units will have to be established. First of all, it will have to be established that these units are more efficient than the existing units.

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि इससे 6 या 7 प्रतिशत चावल की रिकवरी बढ़ जायेगी । तो क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात अभी इसी वर्ष आई । चावल की कमी तो इस देश में पहले भी थी । क्या पहले यह मशीनें नहीं थीं कि यह नई मशीनें लगाने का विचार उन्होंने किया ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: This project has been under consideration for the last two or three years. A technical report was submitted to Government. We processed it and accepted it this year for implementation.

Shri Thirumala Rao: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that these units are being allotted to marketing federations. Before such allotment is made, has Government had any previous information about the proper management of these institutions, whether there are any allegations of defalcations and other things?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are not doing it on our own initiative; we get the recommendations of the State Governments. They process it and give clearance for the purpose of allotment.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that the Indian Ricemilling Manufacturing Equipment Association disputed this claim of the foreign

manufacturers that their machines are superior to the ones being made in India, and that with certain changes in the machines being made here the same efficiency could be achieved by our machines also? If so, what action did Government take to verify the claim of the Indian manufacturers before they placed orders with the foreign manufacturers?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This can be established only when we have these units established and worked. That is why we have ordered only six units to be established in various parts of the country to find out whether 7 to 8 per cent more than that of the indigenous mills would be available from these mills. This is some sort of a pilot project.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Part of the question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Let us wait for another opportunity.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ईस्टर्न यू० पी० में जो कि चावल का केन्द्र है सरकार एक मशीन क्यों नहीं लगा रही है । मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जर्मन और जापानी दोनों मिलों के काम में क्या डिफरेंस है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Japan and West Germany, they follow the same principle with regard to machines. Still there are slight differences between the two. That is why we are getting machinery from both so that an assessment can be made as to which is better, and also whether it is better than the indigenous equipment, and if so, to what extent.

श्री भागवत झा झाजाब : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा कि भविष्य में इस बात पर विचार किया जायेगा कि हम बड़े पैमाने पर इस बात को लायें या नहीं । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी इस बात का प्राधार क्या है, सिर्फ माघारण ज्ञान है

या देश में इस बात का प्रनमान लगाया गया है कि हमारी जो आवश्यकतायें हैं उनकी पूर्ति कहाँ तक हो रही है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Even with the same production of paddy, if we are able to get 7 to 8 per cent more of rice, to that extent rice availability will be increased by this processing, if the claims made on behalf of these units are true. That is why we are now having this as a pilot project to find out whether this increased availability would be there through milling.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Is it not a fact that some of the rice mill-owners, particularly near Raipur in Madhya Pradesh, distracted the attention of Government from starting co-operative rice mills or rice mills in the public sector, as for example, the other day when the Congress President received a sum of Rs. 1,11,000 from rice millowners? What is the policy of Government?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That has nothing to do with the installation of these modern units.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: 336. Q. 338 may also be taken along with it.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Rationing in Kerala

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*336. { **Shri Prabhat Kar:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) whether the question of introducing statutory rationing in Kerala has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). The

question of introducing statutory rationing and monopoly procurement of rice in Kerala was raised at the meetings of the State Food Advisory Committee. This question will be considered at a later stage keeping in view the experience gained in the present informal rationing arrangement.

Food Situation in Kerala

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*338. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Koya:

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

(a) whether the food situation in Kerala has improved;

(b) if so, the total quantity of foodgrains given to an adult, per day; and

(c) the total number of persons in the State who are provided foodgrains through the fair price shops?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 320 grammes.

(c) Except for a small number of agriculturists who grow their own rice and whose cards have been frozen, practically the entire population of about 181.5 lakhs is provided with foodgrains through fair price shops.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I repeat my earlier suggestion that a course in elocution might be arranged for the Treasury Benches?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the fact that under the present system in Kerala, which is known as informal rationing, the quantum of ration which is provided, which is only 6 oz. per head, is totally inadequate, will Government consider how to procure more rice from inside or outside Kerala in order that this quantum may be increased?