

### Export of Sugar

\*542. **Shri Jedhe:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Co-operative Sugar Mills Association to export sugar directly on their behalf;

(b) whether Government are giving any share of their exports of sugar to U.S.A. to the co-operative sugar factories to export directly in future;

(c) if so, the ratio or proportion thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

### Mushroom Cultivation

\*543. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri B. K. Das:**  
**Shri Maheswar Naik:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start mushroom cultivation on a commercial scale;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to implement the scheme; and

(c) whether any area has been chosen for this purpose?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

A small pilot scheme for development of mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh was sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1960. This scheme actually started functioning from July, 1961.

A survey of different areas of Himachal Pradesh is being conducted with a view to collect species of edible mushrooms found growing in nature and necessary data is being collected with regard to their ecological and soil requirements; as a result of this survey, 8 species of edible mushrooms have been collected and identified. Techniques are now being developed to culture the species in the laboratory.

The material for spawn making has been obtained by the Himachal Pradesh Administration from different sources and efforts to multiply spawns of different species are being made.

The work is in preliminary stages and is being conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Solan.

Based on the results that may be recorded under the above scheme, the Government would consider the advisability of taking up mushroom cultivation on a commercial scale in Himachal Pradesh as well as in other parts of the country having suitable agro-climatic conditions. It is premature to decide on precise locations for the production on commercial scale.

### Sugar to Aden

\*544. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement for supply of sugar to Aden has recently been finalised; and

(b) if so, how much sugar is to be exported to that country and on what terms?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) and (b). No agreement has been signed for supply of sugar to Aden by Government. A number of Indian firms have contracted to export 6,500 metric tons of Indian sugar at prices ranging between £24-10-0 to £26-10-0 per metric ton C. & F. Aden and Mukulla (Aden Protectorate) for shipment by May, 1962.