

force uniform rates all over India. May I know whether that intention is still being implemented?

Haji Mohammad Ibrahim: My hon. friend is putting into my mouth something which I have not said. I have never said that we are going to introduce uniform rates throughout the whole of India. I think it is an impossibility; it cannot be achieved. We can try to achieve it to the extent possible.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I suggest that S.Q. No. 55 may also be taken up, as it relates to the same subject.

Mr. Speaker: It may also be taken up if the hon. Minister has no objection.

Export of Sugar

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*51. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

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

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to step up the export of sugar during this year; and

(b) the results achieved?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Every effort is being made to step up export of sugar by booking business wherever possible and securing quota from U.S.A. which is highly preferential market.

(b) A quota of 50,000 short tons has been obtained from U.S.A. for immediate shipment and 1.05 lakh metric tons have been sold for export to Canada, Malaya and Middle East countries for shipment mostly upto 30th June. Further sales are in progress. Nearly 46,000 metric tons have been exported during January—March against sales made last year.

Sugar Purchase by U.S.A.

*55. { **Shri Osman Ali Khan:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Aasad:
Shri Basappa:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

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

(a) whether the U.S. Agriculture Department has of late offered to purchase increased quantities of sugar during the ensuing six months;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) on what terms?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). U.S.A. has agreed to import 50,000 short tons of sugar during the first half of 1962, against purchase of cotton.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister was pleased to say that further sales are in progress. May I know the nature of those further sales and the countries to which those sales are made?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We cannot now say to which countries we are going to sell. As there is no quota restriction, we can now sell to any country which wants it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the rates at which sugar is supplied to U.S.A. are different from the rates at which sugar is supplied to other countries? If so, what is the discrepancy between the rates obtainable in U.S.A. and in other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The approximate realisation on sugar per ton which is exported to the United States of America is roundabout Rs. 550 whereas for sales in the world market we realise only about Rs. 350. Our cost of production comes to about Rs. 800.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Do Government contemplate to reduce the Central excise duty to speed up exports?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: No, Sir, it is not a suggestion.

Dr. Govind Das: The hon. Minister has just now said that the rate in the case of America is Rs. 550 and in the case of other countries it is Rs. 350. What is the reason for this difference?

Shri A. M. Thomas: America is a sheltered market. America produces about 50 per cent of its requirements and in order to protect the indigenous producer they just allocate quotas and will import only to the extent that will keep up the internal prices.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: On the 19th there was a question asked of the Commerce and Industry Ministry which the hon. Minister concerned did not answer in view of the fact that these questions were coming up today.

Mr. Speaker: That all of us know. He should come straight to the question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: We have also submitted tenders. May we know in general terms whether those tenders are lower than the prices that we had last time or whether they are the same or higher?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, Sir; tenders do not affect the prices. The United States Government decided to allocate about 1.74 lakh tons which was needed for the first half—the balance is for the first half—against countries which purchased their agricultural commodities. We were in need of cotton as also wheat; so we also tendered for the purchase of cotton at 120 per cent per ton of the value of sugar. We also tendered for the purchase of 1 lakh tons of wheat.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with

Canada for a barter deal? If so, how does this barter deal with Canada agree with that with U.S.A.?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are also exporting to Canada under a barter arrangement for importing fertilisers. To Canada we have so far exported about 6,895 tons in 1961 and more quantities in 1962.

Shri Hem Barua: The other part of the question has not been answered, namely, how does this compare with the deal with U.S.A.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I do not quite follow.

Shri Hem Barua: You have entered into a barter deal with Canada. How does this compare with the barter deal entered into with U.S.A.?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Compared with what we realise from the world markets, we get better prices for exports to Commonwealth countries. As far as Malaya is concerned, we get a better price. As far as Canada also is concerned, we get a better price. For exports to Commonwealth countries the average realisation, would be about £26 per metric ton.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is the loss that the country will sustain by selling this sugar to U.S.A. during 1961?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The loss can be easily calculated. As I have already said our cost of production would come to about Rs. 800 per ton. For exports to America we realise about Rs. 550 per ton and to the world market Rs. 350. It is a matter of arithmetical calculations.

Shri Banerjee: Apart from stepping up our exports to sell our surplus sugar, may I know whether there is any proposal with the Government to reduce the price of sugar for internal consumption and dispose of the surplus?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Although this is a matter of first impression as far as this House is concerned, in the

previous House the answer has been given. The price of sugar is linked with the price of sugarcane and also excise duty. Unless these two items are reduced there is no scope for reducing the price of sugar for internal consumption.

Shri P. R. Patel: It is said that we have entered into an agreement with America to export sugar at Rs. 550 per ton in exchange for cotton...

Mr. Speaker: What is the need for all this preface? This is already known to the hon. Minister. He may come to the question straight.

Shri P. R. Patel: What will we have to pay for the cotton from America?

Shri A. M. Thomas: For the imports of cotton from America we will be paying the world price. We are in need of long-staple cotton, and we will have to spend foreign exchange for this purpose but for this barter agreement. As far as the price aspect is concerned it is governed by other factors.

Unemployed Civilian Pilots

*52. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the unemployed trained civilian pilots have been provided with jobs;

(b) if not, the number of those who are still unemployed; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide them with employment?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). 33 Pilots with current 'B' licences are believed to be unemployed of which only 8 were trained at the Civil Aviation Training Centre while the remaining 25 obtained their licences through the Flying Clubs.

(c) Employment was secured for 9 pilots with the Indian Air Force who have been requested to absorb

some more. 4 or 5 pilots are believed to have secured employment with the non-scheduled operators and 4 pilots have been selected for the posts of Assistant Aerodrome Officers. Some more pilots may be able to secure employment as Assistant Aerodrome Officers as some further recruitment is being made in the near future.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. the Deputy Minister has stated that some pilots are "believed to have secured employment". May I know whether they have been employed or not? What is the information with the hon. Minister?

Shri Mohiuddin: My information is that they have been absorbed. Five at least have been employed. But that information is not completely confirmed. As far as four are concerned, that has been confirmed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, this notice has been given ten days before, and this is a matter which is being actually discussed in the House...

Mr. Speaker: Whatever information the hon. Minister possesses he is passing it on to the hon. Member.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, you will kindly protect us. They do not give us information. On this particular point they have not been able to get the information, namely, about the total number of pilots still unemployed and how many have been provided employment. He says "believed to be". What is this "believed to be"?

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister got definite information about that?

Shri Mohiuddin: The definite information, I have given. 33 pilots with current 'B' licences are unemployed of whom eight were trained at the Civil Aviation Training Centre, while the remaining 25 obtained their licences through Flying Clubs. This is the definite information.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Under the law every commercial pilot has to be registered so that he can be conscript-