

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : क्या यह सच है कि कृषकों को बहुत सा पाट भ्रगस्त-सितम्बर में सस्ते दामों पर बेच देना पड़ता है और सरकार जो इस विषय में कोम्पारेटिव सोसायटीज के द्वारा जूट खरीदने का विचार कर रही थी, वह काम कहां तक आगे बढ़ा है ?

डा० पं० शा० बेशमुख : हम ने इस में कुछ प्रगति की है और पिछले साल, जब कि प्राइसिज बहुत कम थीं, कीमते कम हो गई थीं, कोम्पारेटिव सोसायटीज के जरिये हम ने कुछ खरीद भी की थी ।

Mr. Speaker: Before I proceed with the next question, I want to say one thing. Shri Karmarkar said that he could not satisfy me whether the work would be done within a year. I have no satisfaction or otherwise.

Shri Karmarkar: I thought you said: "before 31st March".

Mr. Speaker: I only wanted to say that hon. Members who wanted to know within what time the work will be done will possibly be satisfied if they are informed whether there is any reasonable prospect of the work being done within a year. It is open to the hon. Minister to say whether it is possible or not.

Shri Karmarkar: In fact, Sir, I addressed the House through you. Perhaps, Sir, I misheard you and I thought an assurance was required from me that the work will be completed by the end of this financial year.

Mr. Speaker: Not this year—one year.

Shri Karmarkar: But I expect it to be done much earlier than a financial year; it will not take so much time.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: You are giving him too much of a latitude, Sir. I think a competent Minister should know much better.

Shri Karmarkar: I think so.

Rise in Price of Sugar

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Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Tangamani:
 Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
 Shri Pangarkar:
 Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 *650. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shri Ramji Verma:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Braj Raj Singh:
 Shri Khushwaqt Rai:
 Shri Manabendra Shah:
 Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:
 Shri Radha Raman:
 Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
 Shri Anirudha Sinha:
 Shri R. C. Vyas:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar prices registered a rise during January and February, 1960; and

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring the prices down?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) and (b). The Central Government allots specific quotas to the States from each monthly release. It is for the State Governments to arrange proper distribution at reasonable prices. According to information received from the State Governments, prices at approved shops remained generally at proper levels during January and February and there has generally been no increase. However, in Calcutta where the State Government had left the trade free the prices went up but with the implementation of the scheme of distribution introduced by the State Government they are coming down.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the extent to which the distribution of sugar is done through fair price shops by the State Governments and through the normal trade channels?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Now, the State Governments allocate quotas to the various districts and under the supervision of the district officers it is being distributed through fair price shops and other approved dealers.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I want to know the extent to which the sugar is being distributed through fair price shops by the State Governments and through the normal trade channels.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The entire quantity of sugar produced in the country is now being allocated to the various State Governments. They are getting it distributed through the various district officers.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether different rates have been fixed in Bihar for the two zones—North Bihar and South Bihar—and, if so, what is the reason for the same?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to South Bihar, we are just looking into the matter. As the hon. House knows, the cost of production differed from North Bihar, compared to that in South Bihar and so a different price had to be fixed for South Bihar. We are looking into the matter.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether the consumers will get sugar at the same price or at different prices?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The consumer will get it at the price at which the landed cost of North Bihar sugar works out in South Bihar.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what improvements in the distribution have been effected since the new Minister has taken over and whether the new Minister has made any changes in the system of distribution, and if he has done so, may I

know what are the improvements which he has effected? I ask this question because in most parts of the country I find that the malady continues with virulence.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): So far as the distribution of sugar is concerned, it is entirely the responsibility of the States. I have been urging on them that if they do it through the co-operative societies, it would be perhaps better. Distribution of sugar through ration cards has another disadvantage, because those who do not normally eat sugar also start eating it.

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : मैं अभी हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश में सागर इत्यादि जगहों का दौरा करने गई थी और वहाँ मैंने पाया कि शक्कर के भाव बहुत तेज़ हैं जिसके कारण जनता बहुत परेशान है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा कदम उठा रही है जिससे शक्कर उचित भाव पर मुलभ हो सके और जनता में जो असन्तोष फैला हुआ है वह दूर हो सके या क्या सरकार शक्कर के भाव फिक्स करने का विचार कर रही है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In Madhya Pradesh we are allocating a quota of.....

कुछ मातनीय सवस्य : जवाब हिन्दी में दिया जाये ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : जब हिंदी जानते नहीं हैं तो कैसे जवाब हिन्दी में दें ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: . . . 11,300 tons and the price prevailing, according to the report that we have received, is Rs. 41.67 in Bhopal.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member is not able to follow English, the other Minister may answer in Hindi.

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जो वितरण का काम है वह मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट कर रही है,

बहु हमारी तरफ से नहीं होता है। जैसा कि माननीय उपमंत्री महोदय ने बताया है ११,००० टन जितनी शक्कर मध्य प्रदेश को दी जाती है। अब किस तरह से उसका बटवारा होना है वह देखना स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का काम है।

Shri Braj Raj Singh: In view of the reports that the production of sugar is likely to increase by two lakh tons this year, will the Government think over the increase of quotas which are now released per month? The Government have been releasing only 175,000 tons per month and are blaming the State Governments for the defect in the distribution machinery. Unless the Government increase the quota for the States *per month*, I think the prices will shoot up as they have been shooting up.

Shri S. K. Patil: It is too early, because the season has to run. I cannot simply take the risk just now, because if I run short of the stock perhaps the difficulties will be more than what the hon. Member imagines. So far as the quota of allocation, that is, the allocation of 175,000 tons is concerned, it is based on the past one or two years and the practices during the past. But I shall be very glad to increase that quota the moment I am sure that I am out of the woods.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India have brought to the notice of the State Governments that there is much difference between the price of sugar in controlled shops and the price in the open market and, if so, what arrangements are they making to see that the prices do not shoot so much?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The prices range between Re. 1 and Rs. 1.15 per seer. But it is only a small quantity that escapes into the open market now and for that quantity the prices vary from State to the State and are really more than for what we get from the controlled shops.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is not a question of a small quantity escaping. Supposing, in a particular city with a population of 11 lakhs, the cardholders may be only 1½ lakhs, but the other people should get it from the open market. I want to know why the difference is so great. In the market it is Rs. 1-6-0. For instance, in Kanpur, it is Rs. 1-8-0 and elsewhere it is Rs. 1-11-0.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of arguing over the matter. The hon. Minister says that some portion escapes into the market.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Should we not control the price in the market, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Why is there no control of the entire quantity of sugar? That is his question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is not possible in the nature of things. As has been made clear, the entire production of the sugar factories, except for a small quantity that is set apart for the employees, is being distributed through the State Governments. The State Governments are arranging distribution.

My senior colleague has made it clear that even persons who do not require sugar also get sugar from the ration shops, and that quantity perhaps also escapes into the black market.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that sugar prices in the controlled shops are Rs. 40 per maund whereas, 100 miles from here the sugar in the open market costs Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per maund and, if so, what is the reason for this and may I know whether the Government are considering about making sugar available at a reasonable price in those areas?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It may be a fact that the open market prices are a little more than the prices prevailing in the controlled shops.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether, in view of the lesser

production this year, the Government propose to import sugar so as to meet the requirements?

Shri S. K. Patil: The Government do not think of importing any sugar at all. This country has the capacity for producing the sugar that she needs.

Shri Sankarapandian: May I know whether Government have an idea of continuing the control over sugar or whether they have any idea of relaxing it?

Shri S. K. Patil: Surely that depends upon the stock that will be made available at the end of the season.

Shri P. K. Deo: In view of the shortage of sugar, may I know whether Government are considering the putting up of more sugar mills in the country or giving more incentives to private parties to put up more sugar mills?

Shri S. K. Patil: Enough incentives have been given and I expect that the sugar production will increase by about 200,000 tons this year. So far as new factories are concerned, we will be having quite a number of them in the third Five Year Plan.

Shri Prabhat Kar: In view of the fact that the Central Government is allocating the sugar quotas to the States, may I know why the State Governments are giving the sugar to the open market where the prices are much higher and may I know what steps have been taken to see that the State Governments do not allocate any sugar quota to the open market?

Shri S. K. Patil: As I said, it is impossible, and sometimes when you introduce ration over the whole State, perhaps million of people who never used to eat sugar will go in for sugar. That is really not an improvement over the existing situation.

Shri Raghunath Singh: As the cost of production and the recovery in the South are less than in northern India,

may I know why the price in the South is higher?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is the other way about.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister said that we are likely to produce more sugar this year. I want to know whether the present system of sugar distribution, etc., has not yielded the desired effect and, if so, whether a new system or a new procedure will be introduced after we get the total quantity of sugar this year?

Shri S. K. Patil: Two effects will follow. If there is more sugar possibly control may not be necessary. That might reduce the number of those who really take sugar or do not take sugar that goes into the black market. Another thing is, possibly the quotas that are given to the States would be increased.

Protein from Water-Hyacinth

*652. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Applied Chemistry of Calcutta University have exhibited at the World Agriculture Fair samples of protein materials extracted from green leaves of grass, water-hyacinth and other plants, which could be used in making various food preparations;

(b) whether the commercial production of this protein can be taken up;

(c) whether it can be produced domestically; and

(d) if so, the cost of production thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes.

(b) Information available indicates commercial possibilities.

(c) Yes.