

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** It does, Sir, including Madras city. May I know, Sir, considering the important nature of the crop and the number of people growing it and the enormous loss that has been incurred, whether the Government consider instructing the Committee to visit that place, and take evidence?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am sure, Sir, that competent members of the Committee will not forget such an important area and consideration as have been pointed out by my hon. friend.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether growers of these commodities are associated with the working of this Committee?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They are examined, Sir. I do not know whether they are associated. I have got the names of the members of the Committee and they are expected to make enquiries from growers. There is no grower as such excepting an ex-M.P., A. K. Menon, who represents the consumers and C. N. Alexander, who represents the Travancore-Cochin producers.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know, Sir, what are the terms of reference of this Committee and whether the question of high prices of spices and condiments is included in the terms of reference?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, the main object with which the Committee was appointed was to make on-the-spot enquiries and to collect evidence regarding the problems of production and marketing of black pepper, ginger, garlic, cardamom, turmeric and lemongrass.

#### EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR

\*508. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount so far collected under the Sugar Excise Act, 1952; and

(b) the present price of sugar?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Rs. 2.4 lakhs as reported by Excise Collectors.

(b) The ex-factory price of the carry-over stocks of 1951-52 season is Rs. 27/- per maund in North India and Rs. 28/- per maund in South India. There is no price control on 1952-53 sugar but it is being quoted at Rs. 27/- to Rs. 29/8/- per maund ex-factory according to quality and location of the factory.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Sir, could he give us the provincial distribution of such collection?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got these figures, Sir.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** What is the basis for the difference of prices between Northern India and Southern India?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The basis of difference is the transport charges from North India to the South. South India does not produce sufficient sugar to suffice for that area. Therefore it has got the advantage of freight in the market.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** Is it not a fact that the produce of sugar-cane per acre is greater in Southern India than in Northern India?

**Shri Kidwai:** In Bombay State the yield per acre is much higher than in Northern India and the recovery is also much higher than in Northern India. But in free competition they have got the advantage of freight because the sugar produced there is not sufficient and they have to compete with Northern India sugar. Therefore, sugar in South India is costlier than in the North.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** What is the basis of fixing the price of sugar?

**Shri Kidwai:** Nobody fixes the price; it is free market now.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, I have now got the break-up of the figures, if my hon. friend wants it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No, not necessary. That question is over.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, whether sugar produced in South Indian factories is often taken to Northern India?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are we competing with South India? Nobody complains that South Indian sugar is worse than North Indian sugar. What is the object of these questions? I would only ask hon. Members first of all to think what is the object of the question.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that sugar made in Northern India is imported into South India and is it not because of that that the cost of production in South India is higher than in North India?

**Shri Kidwai:** In South India the cost of production is not high. They are getting rich profits because the sugar produced there is supplied locally and

they are allowed to raise their prices, to the price of North Indian sugar plus railway freight.

**ORANGE PLANTATIONS IN WYNAD, COORG AND NILGIRIS**

\*510. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large orange plantations in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris are affected by an unknown disease and becoming extinct;

(b) whether the crops in other parts of India are affected by this disease; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to arrest the menace?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes. 'Decline' or 'Die-Back' of mandarin oranges is a serious problem in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris where deaths of trees have been occurring in large numbers.

(b) This disease also occurs in the Malnad areas of the Mysore State and a similar disease occurs in parts of Bombay and Hyderabad States.

(c) Investigations on the nature of the diseases and its control in Wynad were carried out (as a joint scheme of the Madras Government and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1948-51) and it was found that the disease was due to a lack of proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects and to faulty location of orchards. Proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects as well as adoption of control measures against other diseases and pests have been recommended as an overall measure to improve the mandarin orange industry in Wynad.

2. The I.C.A.R. has recently sanctioned a co-ordinated scheme for citrus die-back disease at a cost of Rs. 5,46,800/- for a period of 5 years with effect from 1-4-53 in view of the seriousness of this disease. Under this scheme a Central Station will be established at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to deal with the fundamental aspects of micro-element nutrition of plants, with two regional stations, one for Coorg and Wynad area and the other for Hyderabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. The regional stations will investigate the nature of citrus die-back disease under local conditions and the methods of controlling the disease.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS INDUSTRY**

\*511. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the steps taken and proposed to be taken for improving the agricultural implements industry?

(b) What are the recommendations of the three day conference of agricultural engineers in various States, and representatives of various firms manufacturing agricultural implements in the country which was held in the second week of January, 1953 at Delhi?

(c) Have any of the recommendations been found acceptable to Government?

(d) If so, what are the recommendations and what steps are being taken to implement them?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) So far as popularisation of improved agricultural implements are concerned, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned a scheme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 1,11,000/ for the manufacture of approved agricultural implements for distribution and demonstration in the States and the introduction of improved agricultural implements, from one part of the country to another.

The State Governments have also been informed that high priority to schemes for research in agricultural implements will be given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. As regards steps proposed, attention is invited to replies to parts (b), (c) and of the question.

(b) to (d). A statement giving briefly the recommendations of the Conference and action taken thereon is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 16.] The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has accepted all the recommendations which will be implemented to the extent funds become available.

**Short Notice Questions and Answers**

**INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC**

**Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the influenza epidemic that swept England, France and other European countries is spreading towards East, has reached upto Egypt and is likely to come to India also?