

way of interest on capital loans, and on dredging and maintaining the navigability of the river, pilotage etc. than at Bombay or Madras. The desirability of achieving uniformity to such extent as local conditions may permit is, however, always kept in view by the Port authorities as well as by the Government when budgetary proposals are framed and approved.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, what are the differences in rates between port and port, of course, excluding such difficulties as exist?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, portage varies; it is a long schedule, the information cannot be given in a sentence.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister be pleased to lay it on the Table of the House in due course?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, I shall do it as early as possible.

PRICES OF SUGAR AND *Gur*

*1007. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the prices of *Gur* and Sugar have recently shown any upward trends?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) What steps have Government taken to prevent these upward price-trends?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). There was a slight rise in sugar prices in January, 1953, due to expected fall in production and export enquiries from abroad, and also depletion of stocks in deficit areas owing to slow off-take in October and November. The prices of sugar have since then shown a downward tendency. There has, however, been a steady rise in *gur* prices due mainly to fall in production.

(c) Exports of both sugar and *gur* have been banned. A large quantity of sugar has been released for sale by sugar factories, and despatches of sugar from factories have been accelerated.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know by what quantity production of *gur* has fallen from the original estimate?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know what period of estimate my hon. friend refers to.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I mean current season or the current financial year?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It may be about 2½ lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How do Government account for the reduction in production and what steps have Government taken to prevent further reduction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Reduction in production is due to bad crops in Western Uttar Pradesh, the Punjab and also some parts of Madras. But even with the reduction I think that we will be carrying about 4 lakh tons for the next year. Therefore the reduction will be about a lakh or so.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How do Government intend to prevent this reduction in production?

Shri Kidwai: What will be the use of producing more unless we can export? And at the present prices we cannot export.

Shri T. N. Singh: What steps do Government propose to take to combat the sudden collapse of prices of *gur* that has occurred in recent months?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member is not aware of the *gur* prices prevailing in the country today.

Shri T. N. Singh: I did not hear the answer, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister thinks that the hon. Member is not aware of the *gur* prices prevailing in the country.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it contended that *gur* prices did not fall a few months ago?

Shri Kidwai: *Gur* prices did fall last year. They went down to about Rs. 5 a maund in some places. Then *gur* export was allowed and the prices rose to Rs. 13. And this season they are not below Rs. 13, but they are over Rs. 13.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether Government is making any attempts to encourage the manufacture and sale of palm *gur* to avoid inconvenience to consumers of *gur* and sugar?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, we are encouraging the manufacture of palm *gur*.

BHADRACHELLAM ROAD—PENUGADUPA RAILWAY LINK

*1008. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the Singareni Collieries Company, Hyderabad State, to extend the Railway line from Bhadrachellam

Road to Penugadupa where mining operations have since been started.

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when the construction will be taken up; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the new link will enable stepping of coal production by 2,000 tons a day?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal to provide an extension is at present only in the preliminary stages of investigation and it cannot now be stated as to when actual construction would be taken up.

(c) The production is expected to be increased by about 1300 tons per day by 1957.

Shri Vittal Rao: Am I to understand from the reply that the work will not be taken up even in 1953 and 1954?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The hon. Member's assumption is correct, Sir.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या इस कंस्ट्रक्शन से कोई फायदा भी होने वाला है ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Am I to understand that the Government are satisfied that the present arrangements are enough to meet the demand?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it arise out of the railway link?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, Sir. Are Government satisfied that the present arrangements are satisfactory without extending the railway line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, we are investigating the line.

FRUIT PRESERVATION SCHEME

*1009. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for training in Fruit Preservation is going to be started in the financial year 1953-54; and

(b) whether any scheme for development of Indian fruits will be started in the near future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) No. The development of the fruit industry is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The

Indian Council of Agricultural Research is, however, financing research schemes on important All India problems.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know whether there is any Adviser for Fruit Preservation at present in the Government of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Government of India had for some time an Expert Adviser. But the experiment was not successful. Therefore it has been dropped.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the total amount of tinned fruit that we import annually; and has there been any decline in it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how much financial assistance has been given in 1952-53 to the State of Madras in this respect?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are various schemes going on. I can tell the hon. Member of at least one scheme where the share of the State Government is Rs. 31,900 and that of the I.C. A.R. the same amount.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Are there any foreign people who are engaged in this fruit preservation industry; if so, how many are there?

Shri Kidwai: Does he refer to foreign countries or to this country?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: How many foreigners are engaged in the fruit preservation industry in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This question will have to be addressed to another Minister, because research on fruit preservation is now the responsibility of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research who are now doing this work at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Does the Government contemplate to sanction any amount under the Cottage Industries for this fruit preservation business?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is going to be investigated soon, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have in view the starting of a canning plant at Punalur where there is a steady supply of pine-apples?

Shri Kidwai: We will have to make enquiries from the State Government if the question is put.