

availability of consent statements from the near relatives whose whereabouts are not known, non-verification of credits of premia for certain months, etc.

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Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that in certain cases succession and death certificates have not been produced because they are not available as they have been destroyed during the occupation period in Burma, and whether the Government is thinking of accepting affidavits in those cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, we have got rules which apply to cases of policies valued at over Rs. 5,000, policies between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 5,000 and policies below Rs. 3,000. In each one of these cases we have got to ask the persons concerned to furnish proof of heirship or obtain the consent of the near relatives and also to execute indemnity bonds before a payment is made.

लाला अब्दुल्ला राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि ऐसे कितने क्लेमस हैं जिनका पाकिस्तान से कागजात न आने की वजह से फ़ैसला नहीं हो सका है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैंने निवेदन किया कि Non-receipt of files or documents from Pakistan 12 हैं और Claimants being in Pakistan 37 हैं।

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount involved in these disputed policies?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible for me to say because that will involve an enormous collection of figures

TRAINING OF DISPLACED WOMEN

*556. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of displaced girls and women trained as nurses so far?

(b) How many of them have secured employment?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). The information required is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what is the amount to far spent in training these displaced persons?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The data is being collected, but, as far as the amount spent in the Lady Hardinge College in Delhi is concerned, I have got the figures. That is, Rs. 1,64,751-11-0 has been spent out of which Rs. 1,45,274-12-0 has been paid to the institution as grant-in-aid and the balance, namely, Rs. 19,476-15-0 has still to be paid.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, how many training centres are there for training these persons in nursing?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Training is given in most of the hospitals where they retain nurses.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is there any special institution for training refugee women?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar. No special institutions are there, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether their services are utilised by Government?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

Short Notice Question and Answer

FIXATION OF THE SUGARCANE PRICE FOR 1953-54 SEASON

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are contemplating to announce its policy of price fixation of sugar-cane, sugar, *gur* for the 1953-54 season;

(b) whether the State Governments have been consulted or are proposed

to be consulted before taking decision in the matter; and

(c) What factors are proposed to be taken into consideration in arriving at a price which may be equitable to the grower, the consumer and the mill-owner?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Yes.

(b) The State Governments are being consulted.

(c) The following factors will be taken into consideration in fixing a minimum price for sugarcane:—

(i) The general trend of agricultural prices;

(ii) The interests of the cane grower, consumer and the sugar industry.

Sardar Lal Singh: What has been the ruling market price of sugar this year as against last year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It has been generally lower than last year.

Sardar Lal Singh: How much lower has it been?

Shri Kidwai: As I have explained on an earlier occasion in reply to a question in this House, this year on account of high prices of *gur* and *khandsari*, because of short production, sugar prices were high. As I informed the House, in Kolhapur and Madras the *gur* prices were Rs. 28. So, people consumed more sugar than last year, and there has been 50 per cent. increase in the consumption of sugar. Therefore, we had to import some sugar to keep down the prices.

Sardar Lal Singh: Since you have already ruled that I cannot question the correctness of the statement of the hon. Minister, I would only ask one question. On the plea of reducing prices...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has misunderstood my ruling.

What I said was that hon. Members ought not to give information. If they find any inconsistency between a statement made previously, or what is contained in an authorised published document, and what the hon. Minister says now, they can certainly ask why in the published document such and such a figure is given as against the figure he states on the floor of the House.

Sardar Lal Singh: The question I want to ask is this. On the plea of reducing the price of sugar to benefit the consumer a cut of 25 per cent. in the price of cane was made last year. But has the consumer got the corresponding benefit in the form of reduction in prices?

Shri Kidwai: I have explained again and again that we fix the minimum price that the cane grower should get. We do not compel him by law to cultivate cane. I have got again the figures of a farm of a cultivator in the Punjab. I find that in 1947-48.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of another farmer?

Shri Kidwai: The same farmer.

Sardar Lal Singh: My question is only this. In spite of the drastic cut of 25 per cent. in the price of cane to the grower which has cost him Rs. 20 crores, the consumer has paid more price than last year. What has benefited the most—is it the mill-owner and the trading community or anybody else.

Shri Kidwai: I again say, that the producer, in spite of the fact that the price fixed was lower than in the previous year, on account of the increase in the yield per acre, has earned more and I have got the figures. If the hon. Member wants I shall give them.

Sardar Lal Singh: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must accept the answer given.

Shri Gopala Rao: Last year the rate was reduced from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs.

1-5-0 per maund. What is the experience of one year—what are the results that have come out of the reduction of this price?

Shri Kidwai: That is why I wanted to give the figures relating to a farmer. I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information he has asked. I find that when the cane price was fixed at Rs. 2 this cultivator reduced his cultivation from 330 bighas to 260 bighas, because as I said the prices of other food-grains in the open market or black market were higher than that of cane. When the price was reduced in 1948, his area under cane was 260 bighas. This year when the price has been reduced to Rs. 1-5-0 this agriculturist has cultivated 320 bighas. As I said it does not depend upon the price.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: May I know whether the Ministry is aware that the effect of the fixation of price will not be apparent or noticeable in the next year, but only in later years?

Shri Kidwai: Even Rs. 1-5-0 brings larger income than the cultivation of rice or wheat and that is what we should be concerned with. If the prices are raised unreasonably then more and more area will go over to cane cultivation and next season it will be found that they are not able to crush their cane and they will have to burn it. This has been our experience in the last few years.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS BY F.A.O.

*553. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quota allotted to India for supply of wheat and rice by the F.A.O.;

(b) the prices at which it is settled to be supplied; and

(c) whether the member countries are bound to purchase the quota allotted to them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Food and Agriculture Organisation makes no allotments of wheat and rice to any country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

VANASPATI (FACORIES)

*554. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories which produced hydrogenated vegetable oil in the year 1947-48;

(b) the total quantity and value of the oil produced by these factories during the said year;

(c) the number of factories engaged in producing hydrogenated vegetable oil during the year 1952-53;

(d) the quantity and value produced therein; and

(e) the wholesale and retail prices at which hydrogenated vegetable oil was sold during the years 1947-48 to 1952-53?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 24.

(b) 1.02 lakhs tons valued at Rs. 18.8 crores.

(c) 49

(d) 1.99 lakh tons valued at Rs. 41.2 crores.

(e) The average wholesale and retail prices of hydrogenated vegetable oils during the years 1947-48 to 1952-53 were as follows:—

| Year | Wholesale price Retail Price | |
|---------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | (per ton) | (per lb.) |
| | Rs. | Rs. As. Pa. |
| 1947-48 | 1837 | 0-13-9 |
| 1948-49 | 2065 | 0-15-6 |
| 1949-50 | 2187 | 1-0-3 |
| 1950-51 | 2389 | 1-1-0 |
| 1951-52 | 2462 | 1-2-6 |
| 1952-53 | 2068 | Not Available |