

reduce the price of wheat with immediate effect? If so, by what amount?

Shri Kidwai: I hope the hon. Member knows that in the current year we have twice over reduced the price. We first brought it down from Rs. 18-8 to Rs. 17-8 and then from Rs. 17-8 to Rs. 16 per maund. This is below the price at which the wheat is being supplied in the controlled markets of Bombay and Calcutta.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know within what time Government contemplate to take away the control from wheat?

Shri Kidwai: When I was recently in Bombay I came to know that wheat is being sold at Rs. 20 to the consumer while we can sell it at Rs. 16-8 to the retailer, who will sell it to the consumer at Rs. 17 or, at the most, at Rs. 17-8. Therefore this is under contemplation.

Seth Govind Das rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have allowed sixteen questions on this. What can I do? Hon. Members who want to put questions must come in early—intervene in the question early; I am not referring to his coming late.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

*784. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Japanese Expert has been invited for vocational training for plantation workers?

(b) Has he come and started his work?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 20.]

Ch. Raghbir Singh: May I know the reasons why the Expert was not able to set up a practical demonstration centre?

Shri Abid Ali: He was more a theoretical man and did not know how to demonstrate the making of the articles which we wanted to be made and to be used for cottage industries. Therefore he was sent away earlier.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Minister recently toured plantation areas. For how many days in a week on an average are these labourers employed in these plantation areas?

Shri Abid Ali: Now they are employed for six days in a week in most of the plantation gardens; in some places, of course, for four and five days.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Then where is the necessity for this vocational training if they are employed for six days in a week?

Shri Abid Ali: At that time the situation was not so good. The workers are also to be given some work during spare time.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Who invited this academic expert and who paid for his visit?

Shri Abid Ali: It was under the Agreement. This matter has been discussed here several times on previous occasions. We spent only about Rs. 3,400.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what kind of vocational training this expert suggested?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has gone away.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether under this arrangement with the International Labour Office, in pursuance of which the Japanese expert visited this country, the visit of any other expert is contemplated?

Shri Abid Ali: At least not at present, Sir.

Shri N. Somana: May I know whether he has made any proposals as regards supplementary labour?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir, he has.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if, apart from the recommendations of the expert, Government have their own scheme of vocational training for plantation labourers?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir, we are giving serious consideration to this matter.

TUBE WELLS IN PUNJAB (AID)

*785. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of aid sought by the State of the Punjab for the installation of tube-wells in the State; and,

(b) the aid sanctioned and made available to the State so far?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Since 1950-51, a total loan of Rs. 136.14 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Punjab Government for their tubewells construction schemes against Rs. 147.62 lakhs asked for.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know on what basis this grant for tubewells is allocated to the different States in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On the basis of what they want and what would be beneficial to the State and the country.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government of India gets any report from the State about the tube-wells that have been sunk or that are going to be sunk?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Very regularly; and if the schedule is not being observed we use all possible means of trying to get more progress.

लाला अचिन्त राम : जो रिपोर्ट अब तक पहुंची है क्या उस रिपोर्ट में हिसार का जिला भी शामिल किया गया है ?

काबल तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किदवाई) : क्या हिसार में भी ट्यूब वेल बन रहे हैं ?

लाला अचिन्त राम : बनने चाहियें । वहां पानी नहीं पहुंचता है ।

श्री किदवाई : चाहिये का सवाल नहीं था । सवाल यह था कि कितना लोन मांगा गया था और कितना दिया गया ।

लाला अचिन्त राम : हिसार के लिये मांगा गया था लेकिन मिला नहीं ।

श्री किदवाई : हिसार के लिये शायद मांगा ही नहीं होगा ।

लाला अचिन्त राम : यह आप को गलतफहमी है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. I won't allow four or five questions to the same Member at a time.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the sanctioned amount includes any amount from the Technical Co-operation Agreement?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether the tubewell scheme has been extended anywhere in the southern States, especially to Travancore-Cochin?

Shri Kidwai: In Travancore-Cochin there is more than enough water available.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: No, Sir, not in my constituency.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that an American firm under the name Harold T. Smith is doing this work in the Punjab, and, if so, whether it is a fact that they are being paid Rs. 29,000 per tubewell on the average, and whether it is not higher than the former rate?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is all correct, Sir.

श्री हेबा : जो रिपोर्ट गवर्नमेंट के पास समय समय पर आती है उस से क्या हुकूमत इस बात का अन्दाजा लगा सकती