

that we may stop all imports at some stage. Last year, we had to import some sugar, and this year also we have to import some sugar. We would like to stop these imports. So, we want to increase the sugarcane production in the country. With this end in view, we are giving manure loans to the cultivators, and also providing more irrigation facilities to the cane growers, by constructing more tubewells, as has been done in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We are giving these facilities, with a view to increasing the yield.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** How far is this reduction due to the lower price of cane?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** That I cannot say.

**Shri Kelappan:** What proportion of this production goes to the sugar mills?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We are supposed to produce about fifty-two lakhs of tons, speaking in terms of jaggery, in this country; out of this, ten and a quarter lakhs of tons is sugar.

#### WORKERS IN SALT INDUSTRY

\*1580. **Shri Keshavalingar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the condition of the workers in the salt industry;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ameliorate their condition;

(c) what is the total number of salt workers in India; and

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by exporting salt in 1952 and 1953?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b). Information from the State Governments concerned is being collected.

(c) the average number of daily labour engaged in the Salt industry is about 32,000.

(d) The foreign exchange earned by the export of salt in 1952 and 1953 is

about Rs. 57 lakhs and Rs. 45 lakhs respectively.

**Shri Keshavalingar:** May I know whether this figure of 32,000 includes seasonal workers, and if not, the figure including seasonal workers?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It includes seasonal workers, but during the season, the number increases to about 56,000.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know the reason for not applying the Factories Act to these salt factories, even though these salt factories are for all practical purposes, factories?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Wherever it can be made applicable, the Factories Act is applied.

**Shri Keshavalingar:** May I know whether the Minimum Wages Act is applicable to these workers, whether any minimum wage has been fixed for them, and if so, what that minimum wage is?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The Government of Bombay have already included employment in the salt industry in the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act. The Governments of Travancore-Cochin and Saurashtra are considering the question of including the employment in this industry in the Schedule to the Act.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** May I know the countries to which salt is being exported?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Mostly to Japan.

#### IMPORT OF RAW SUGAR

\*1582. **Shri Kasliwal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any applications from some sugar merchants have been received for the import of raw sugar;

(b) whether Government propose to issue or have issued the necessary permits for the import of raw sugar; and

(c) if so, how much raw sugar will be imported?