

is a difference on one or two points, especially in regard to West Bengal.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What are the points of difference and which are the States which have disagreed?

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be too long a question to be put in.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

*125. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar produced in India during the year 1951-52; and

(b) the total quantity of *gur* produced in India during the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 13.50 lakh tons upto 30-4-52.

(b) 27.44 lakh tons (estimated).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the production of sugar and *gur* in 1951-52 has increased over that in 1950-51?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, it increased because the cultivation of sugarcane had increased by almost 20 per cent during the last two years.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of India has suggested to the sugarcane producing States to reduce the prices of sugarcane and, if so, whether that advice has been accepted by all the sugarcane-producing States?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, several suggestions for the reduction of cane prices were made, but the Governments concerned thought that it would adversely affect the income of the agriculturists.

Shri Dabhi: What are the normal annual requirements of the country of sugar and *gur*?

Shri Kidwai: The normal requirement of sugar is about one million tons, but I am sure that if the price is reduced the requirements will increase.

Shri Pocker Saheb: May I know whether Government expects more production in 1952-53 so as to be able to export sugar from India?

Shri Kidwai: There is no export of sugar because the production costs here are higher than those in any other country.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government would think of decontrolling sugar in the near future?

Shri Kidwai: The sugar position today is such that it can be decontrolled, but the question is that the cane had been purchased at a very high cost and if all the sugar is sold in the free market, perhaps both the mill-owners and the Government will suffer a great loss. Therefore we are trying to find some export market, and the present-day situation will be taken into consideration when the next year's prices are fixed.

SUBSIDY FOR CONSTRUCTING WELLS IN SCARCITY AREAS

*126. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given subsidy to any State for constructing wells in scarcity areas;

(b) if so, to which State or States such subsidies have been given; and

(c) the total amount of money given as such subsidies to different States?

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

(b) Uttar Pradesh. Proposals from certain other States which suffered from scarcity are under consideration.

(c) Rs. 24,00,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know how many wells are proposed to be constructed in U.P. this year?

Shri Kidwai: They propose to construct 6,000 wells.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any portion of the expenditure will be met by the State Governmental source?

Shri Kidwai: I think so, but I would require notice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the cultivators are also required to share the expenditure and, if so, what would be their share?

Shri Kidwai: Cultivators are given *taccavi* loans in some cases.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the reasons which led the Government to abandon subsidising the construction of wells in non-scarcity areas?

Shri Kidwai: Nothing has been abandoned. The normal procedure for providing water for irrigation is being carried on. But this is specially for the scarcity areas.