

advanced any amount to the Bombay Government either by way of grant or loan and if so, what is that amount?

(c) How much progress has been made in this direction of sinking tube-wells?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a), Yes.

(b) The Government of India have so far advanced a loan of Rs. 40 lakhs against a total loan of Rs. 210 lakhs which has been agreed to for the entire project of 400 tube-wells.

(c) A survey of the entire area has been completed, five tube-wells have been drilled upto 15th October, 1952 and two are being drilled.

**Shri Dabhi:** How many tube wells are being sunk, in which parts of the State and at what cost?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** A scheme for the construction of 400 tube wells in North Gujarat was submitted by the Government of Bombay to the Government of India, requesting a grant of a loan. Mostly, they are situated in Gujarat. A contract has been given to a company and it is proceeding with the work. These 400 tube wells are expected to be completed by 31st March, 1953, unless the time is extended by the Bombay Government. The work is going on.

**Shri Dabhi:** How many acres of land are estimated to be irrigated by each tube well when completed?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Each tube well is expected to irrigate 200 acres of land. The total number of acres for all the tube wells would be 80,000 acres.

**Shri Gadgil:** May I know whether this programme of tube wells in Gujarat was undertaken after a thorough geological survey of the land and whether such a survey has been done in the Deccan tract which is normally subject to scarcity.

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

**Col. Zaidi:** The hon. Minister stated that the contract was placed with a firm. Is that company sinking the tube wells or has it sublet the contract to a foreign firm?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The information supplied by my hon. friend is probably correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question hour is over.

**Col. Zaidi:** I wanted to know whether the contract has been sublet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Minister said that it has been sublet.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is my information, but I speak subject to correction.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question-hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### RICE MILLS IN BIHAR

\*71. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a non-official Resolution passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly during the last Session recommending to the State the closing down of rice mills in Bihar and also recommending to the Central Government to do likewise?

(b) If so, what action, if any, do Government propose to take to implement the recommendation so far as it relates to the Central Government?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Government of India have since seen a copy of the resolution in question.

(b) They have already imposed such restrictions as are considered feasible, and it is not proposed to impose any further restrictions on the rice milling industry.

##### SUGAR CANE (PRICE)

\*72. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum price of sugarcane is fixed by the Central Government now;

(b) if so, whether it is fixed for all the States or only for some of them in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that this minimum price is fixed on the eve of the crushing season to which it applies;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the cost of sugarcane production varies in different States but the controlled price of sugar is the same all over the country; and

(e) if so, what steps, if any, have been or are being taken by the Central Government to put the cultivation of sugarcane on a stable basis?