

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?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, but only for sugarcane to be supplied to vacuum pan sugar factories.

(b) For all the sugar producing States in India.

(c) Yes. Since the prices of sugarcane are fixed after taking into consideration the extent and conditions of the cane crops concerned, the price of gur and other alternate crops, it has not been found feasible to fix the price of cane before the time of sowing. The price of cane this year too, has been fixed at the same time although an indication was given earlier, that a reduction will be affected.

(d) Reliable data of the cost of production of sugarcane in the various States are not available, but it does differ from State to State. Upto 1949-50 there used to be one all-India sugar price, but during the seasons 1950-51 and 1951-52 price of sugar was fixed on regional basis after accounting for the local differences in the cost of production of sugar.

(e) It is not possible to plan exactly that the production in a particular year should not exceed the requirements of that year, for while the acreage under sugarcane can be regulated, the yield depends on weather conditions and cannot be predicted a year in advance.

On the whole however sugarcane cultivation is getting stabilised and it is the constant endeavour of the Central Government to keep up the required production from as small an acreage as possible.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR

***79. Shri N. F. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many sessions of the Central Advisory Committee for Labour have been held since January 1951 and at what places?

(b) What decisions were taken regarding "fair wages"?

(c) Who are the Members of the Committee?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Central Advisory Council for Labour which was constituted in September, 1948. If so, no session of this Council was held after July, 1949.

(b) The Central Advisory Council was assisted in its study of the subject of fair wages by a tripartite com-

mittee which submitted practically unanimous report. A statement showing the recommendations of the Committee which were accepted by the Council is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14]

(c) A list, as in July 1949, is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]

RAILWAY TIME TABLE

***80. Shri Krishna Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Railways used formerly to publish two editions of their Time Table, one of which was cheaper and brief?

(b) Is it a fact that publication of this cheaper edition has now been stopped?

(c) Is it in contemplation to revive this cheaper edition?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, so far as Time Table in English was concerned.

(b) and (c) Out of the six Railway Administrations, four, viz., Central, Northern, North-Eastern and Southern Railways, are publishing two editions of Time-Table in English. Of the remaining two Railways, Western Railway have only one edition in English priced four annas and the Eastern Railway have also one edition in English priced six annas. The Eastern Railway propose to publish a cheaper edition from 1st April 1953.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS BETWEEN KIDHD- PUR AND INDARA STATIONS

***81. Shri Raghbir Sahai:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many persons died in the Railway accident that took place between Kidhdpur and Indara stations of the North Eastern Railway on or about the 28th September, 1952?

(b) How many hours after the accident medical aid arrived at the scene of occurrence?

(c) What were the causes of the accident?

(d) Has the report of enquiry by the Inspector of Railways been received by Government and whether a copy thereof will be placed, on the Table of the House?

(e) What further steps do Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of cases of sabotage on the Indian Railways?