

(c) when the Award is likely to be received by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : (a) No.

(b) Evidence has been completed and the stage for arguments was to have been reached on the 15th December, 1955.

(c) By about the end of February 1956.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know, in view of the fact that this tribunal was constituted nearly two years ago, what steps are being taken by the Government to announce their decision on the award as soon as it is received? I put this question because this tribunal covers about 900 collieries and 3,25,000 workers.

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khan-dubhai Desai) : It is true that the tribunal was constituted about two years back. But unfortunately, for about a year, the tribunal could not function because of the strained relations between the various members of the tribunal. The tribunal had to be reconstituted in February, 1955. So, they have been able to do the work during the last nine months, and they have now completed the evidence and the arguments are being going on. We hope that we will get the award very soon, and as soon as we get the award there will be no hesitation in gazetting it.

Indian Shipping

*940. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1722 on the 14th September, 1955 and state whether Government envisage any scheme in the Second Five Year Plan for giving aid to Indian shipping as subsidy?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : I presume the hon. Member wants to know whether Government envisage a scheme for giving direct subsidies to Indian shipping. If so, the position is that there is no such scheme under consideration. As stated in reply to question No. 1722 the Indian shipping companies are getting an indirect financial subsidy in the shape of Government loans at concessional rates of interest.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या ऐसी परिस्थिति है कि इस लोन की दर को देखते हुये ये शिपिंग कम्पनियां अपने शिपिंग के मामले को बढ़ा नहीं सकती है? यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उनको सबसिडी देना नहीं चाहती ?

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श्री शाहनवाज खान : इस वकत जिह सूद पर गवर्नमेंट सबसिडी देती है वह कोस्टल शिपिंग के लिये ४ से साढ़े ४ फीसदी है और ओवरसीज शिपिंग के लिये यानी समुद्र पार के शिपिंग के लिये सिर्फ ढाई फीसदी पर देती है। मेरे ब्याल में यह काफी रीजेनेबिल है।

Short Notice Questions And Answers

Sugar Cane Price in U.P.

S. N. Q. No. 4th Shri Bishwa Nath Roy : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price-rate of sugarcane has been reduced in some districts of Uttar Pradesh for the current season;

(b) if so, whether Government have changed their policy regarding fixing of sugarcane price-rate; and

(c) the number of sugarcane growers who would be adversely affected by the reduction in the price-rate?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) A reduction of -2/- per maund in the minimum price has been allowed for the current crushing season for cane supplied to factories from certain centres in the Dehra Dun and Naini Tal districts of Tarai area in U.P subject to the condition that the cut is restored if, and to the extent, warranted by the aggregate recovery actually obtained from such cane.

(b) The general policy referred to remains unchanged.

(c) The number of sugarcane growers affected is not known, but the total quantity of sugarcane involved is estimated at 3.3 lakh tons.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy : During the last few years, the Government adopted the policy of announcing the price-rate of sugarcane about a year before the supply of sugarcane to the factories. May I know why the policy has been changed now at the time when the factories are just going to purchase the sugarcane?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is true that the price of sugarcane is announced one year in advance of the sale of the crop. But Government has always the power if the circumstances demand to vary that price. In this particular case, the U.P. Government after enquiry came to the conclusion that during the past two or three years the recovery of sugar from the sugarcane purchased from these centres was low and if the price of Rs. 1-7-0 was enforced, the mills might not start working. We were anxious that the interests of the growers should be safeguarded and we also wanted to avoid any possibility of mills not working. Therefore, we thought that we should accept the recommendation of the U.P. Government.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know the factories concerned which purchase sugarcane from those areas where the change of policy has been implemented?

Shri A. P. Jain: One of the sugar factories of Gekul Nagar has been shifted from the Tarai area and efforts were made to set up a co-operative factory and to bring in some private party to set up factory in Tarai, but they failed. In fact, these areas have been troubled spots and the recovery of sugar has been low in these areas.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if Government is aware that there are seven other mills now in the Uttar Pradesh which have got lesser recovery than the average and whether Government propose to reduce the price there also?

Shri A. P. Jain: There is no such proposal; no such information has been sent to us by the U. P. Government.

Shri Shivnanjappa: In view of the fact that the Indian sugar mills have made good profit during the years 1954 and 1955, may I know what steps have been taken by the Government to secure better prices for the cane growers?

Shri A. P. Jain: The hon. Member may be aware that there is a formula for sharing the excess profits. If any excess profits are due to the growers, the mills will have to pay them.

Shri Bogawat: The prices have gone down and the growers who want to sell sugarcane to the mills are required to sell at very low prices. Will the Government take care to see that sugarcane is purchased at a fixed price?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have fixed the minimum price and no factory will be allowed to buy below the price fixed

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Was that formula applied only for the year 1953-54 or will it apply to the subsequent years also? What is that formula?

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as the formula is concerned, it has been laid on the Table of the House more than once. It is an arithmetical formula and it is not possible me to repeat it. But that formula was applicable last year. It is now being reviewed because there were some complaints from the mills that certain allowance had not been made and the cane grower was also feeling that he has not been paid his due share. The formula is under review and the same formula or the revised formula will be applicable this year and also in future years.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this question of recovery was taken into consideration at the time of determining the sugarcane prices and whether the recovery for these particular areas of U.P. has gone down this year as compared to last year and also whether any test has been made actually on behalf of the Central Government to find out whether it has gone down?

Shri A. P. Jain: The price of sugarcane is based on an average recovery of 9.6 per cent. In the case of Doiwala in the year 1951-52 the recovery was 8.47 per cent; in 1952-53 it was 8.51; in 1953-54 it was 9.08 and in 1954-55 it was 8.01. So far as this year is concerned, it will be known only after sometime. We shall send specialists from the technological Institute to visit the mills from time to time and find out what the actual recovery is.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the next item of business.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary rose—

Mr. Speaker: I was watching from the beginning, but the hon. Member did not catch my eye.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

Amenities to T. T. Es.

*890. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Ex. M.S.M. Section of Indian Railways, there are any facilities for the Travelling Ticket Examiners to rest, when they have finished duty; and