

Sugarcane Prices

*1059. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the possibilities of encouraging the cane-grower to cultivate high quality of sugarcane through prices incentives, linking sugarcane price to the sugar manufactured from the cane supplied to the sugar factories in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure equity to the cane-growers in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). An Export Committee was appointed in April, 1955, to re-examine the All India formula adopted for 1953-54 season for linking the price of sugarcane with that of sugar, and also to consider the possibility of payment for cane based on sugar content. Report of the Committee is awaited.

Shri Ibrahim: May I know the reasons why the Government does not like to increase the price of sugarcane in order to improve the quality of sugarcane by the growers.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The question put is, why the Government does not like to increase the price of sugarcane to improve the quality. Government would like to adopt the formula linking the price of sugarcane with that of sugar any by all means we want to encourage the production of best cane in the country. That is why this formula is adopted and the Committee is appointed.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know how many sittings of this Committee were held and whether the Committee has submitted any report?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They met a number of times and they have issued a questionnaire to all the concerned States. Some of the States have not yet replied and the Committee is waiting for the replies from those States. Very soon we expect them to submit a report.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know how many committees, commissions and expert bodies up till now have been set up to find out the sugarcane price?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): It is a continuous process. Sugarcane grows continuously and the Committees are also a continuous process.

Nava Ratna Kalpa

*1061. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that there is a medicine having the label "Nava Ratna Kalpa" alleged to be a compound of the nine gems, (precious stones) and to be a specific remedy for widely different diseases;

(b) whether Government have had this medicine tested; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Government have seen newspaper advertisement to this effect.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government have taken any action under the amended Drug Control Act in respect of this particular drug and its spurious advertisement?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Government is consulting the Law Ministry as to whether this particular advertisement comes under the Medicinal Preparations (Objectionable Advertisements) Act or not.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that this particular drug is advertised as a very effective remedy for all known and unknown diseases and also that this drug is supposed to be compounded from the most costly precious stones—rubies, emeralds, amethyst and other things?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No reply is necessary.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In view of the tall claims made by the physician in almost all the dailies and periodicals in India may I enquire as to what exactly is the thing that prevents the Government from examining the efficacy of this medicine and warning the public with regard to this?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is not possible for Government to examine every medicine that is advertised. As a matter of fact, in regard to this particular medicine a request has come in for testing it and the Government is considering as to how best to carry out that test.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: May I know, Sir...

Mr Speaker: Order, order. We need not spend time over a small advertisement. There are many more important matters.