

ject is not being taken up. I want to know whether Government has approved it or not. I only want to know whether the benefits that are to be derived from the Salandi project will be available to the people after the Bhimkund project has been accepted by Government.

**Shri Bhati:** That project is under examination of Government. Whether it is accepted or not we should plan in a way that in case it is accepted, this scheme should also have the benefit of the other scheme.

#### Cost of Production of Foodgrains

\*1317. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any economic survey has been undertaken to assess the cost of production of foodgrains; and

(b) what would be the basis of fixation of foodgrain prices when the State takes over trade in foodgrains?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):**

(a) No specific economic survey has been undertaken by the Government to assess the cost of production of foodgrains in the country

(b) Government purchase prices for foodgrains have to be fixed with the object of ensuring a reasonable price to the producer as well as the consumer and keeping in view the post-harvest prices during the previous years.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** What is the criterion for the fixation of a reasonable price to the farmer if no economic survey has been made?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have said that no specific survey as such has been conducted. But for the benefit of the House I may give this information that the Central Government

have undertaken certain investigations on the cost of production of foodgrains. An enquiry was conducted by the Economic and Statistics Directorate in collaboration with the Research Programme Committee of the Planning Commission but the results of the different States vary and the figures are widely divergent

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** May I know whether the Government has taken any step to assure proper prices for the farmers and producers and if that is so what is the definition of 'proper prices'?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have already said that our procurement prices are based on the procurement prices that existed in 1952-53 when there was control. Then we have also taken into account the post-harvest prices of subsequent years. Based on these, the procurement prices have been fixed. I may also state that although the figures are divergent for the various States, the procurement prices that we have fixed are not unreasonable compared to the cost of production

**Shri Tyagi:** The House is anxious to know on what criteria the prices are fixed. It is not enough for our satisfaction to know that whatever prices prevailed in 1953 have been taken into account and the same prices have been fixed without a real survey taking notice of the cost of the production or the cost of living. What are the criteria? We want to know. Is it done arbitrarily?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The survey results have been partly taken into account. Of course it is theoretically desirable to base the procurement prices on the cost of production but there are difficulties. This question was gone into by a Conference of the FAO/ICAFS and its conclusion is to this effect:

"Establishment of a farm price level solely on the basis of cost

of production estimates was criticised for its failure to take into account the demand for the commodity on domestic and foreign markets, for neglecting the interests of consumers..... and unless done on a sector basis, for lack of consideration of the relationships between prices of competing commodities for which the development policy of a country may have assigned different priorities."

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that the Grow More Food Campaign did not succeed to the extent the Government wanted it to succeed because this survey has not been made and is it worthwhile to go on fixing procurement prices according to the 1952-53 prices because since then the prices of all commodities and all necessities of life are increasing?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That aspect has been taken into consideration. I may inform the House that there is no question of not conducting any survey at all. We have taken into account the various aspects. The Asoka Mehta Committee has gone into this question and has recommended a price of Rs. 15—17 per maund. For calculating the cost of production, you have to take the cost of family labour, cost of hired labour and the rent of the plot etc. All complicated factors have to be taken into account. But it is practically impossible, in view of the divergent figures that we have got for the various States to fix a procurement price on the cost of production. I may also say that the hon. Members have been clamouring that there must be some uniformity in the fixation of prices for procurement. How can there be uniformity if there are such divergent figures?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** They have said that they have not conducted any survey about the fixation of prices of foodgrains.....

**Shri Ranga:** They do not propose also!

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know whether they propose to conduct some survey, in view of the divergent views that have been expressed in the different States?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have conducted surveys for three years from 1955-56 on a crop rotation basis. I referred to these surveys in my answers to the supplementary questions. The necessary surveys were being made by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in conjunction with the Planning Commission.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that the new harvest will be coming soon, may we know whether the Government is proposing to overhaul and reconstitute the statistical organisation that are there for surveying and fixing the cost of production of foodgrains, besides reorganising the items of expenditure to be calculated for the production of foodgrains?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to the procurement prices for the next harvest, that is being attended to by us and we will be in a position to announce the prices before the procurement from the new crop actually begins. With regard to the strengthening of the statistical organisation, some recommendations have been made by the Asoka Mehta Committee and they have been taken note of and some organisational improvements have been effected and are also being thought of.

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I think the only way is to pass on to the next question.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is a very important question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I agree. But would it be possible to have all these answers and discussions during the Question Hour. I could permit seven or eight or ten or fifteen. But there are twenty or twenty-five Members who want to put questions. It might be discussed in some other form but so far as the Question Hour is concerned I find it difficult to allow this.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I suggest that a statement showing procurement prices in different States may be laid on the Table of the House?

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** The Hon Minister may call a meeting of the Members who are very anxious about this.

**Shri Banga:** Only to repeat this kind of answers? That would be useless.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil):** May I add, Sir, that I have seen the anxiety of the House. Surely, this question would further be examined. Prices have got to be related to the cost of production. There is no doubt about it. But there are difficulties as indicated by my hon colleague but even then the cost of production must be the main consideration so far as the price-fixation is concerned. If any survey on a scientific basis is considered necessary in order to arrive at it, it would not apply to the immediate task, because the crops are now coming in and something has got to be done. I shall examine that point sympathetically and get it done.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question

**Children's Park, Public Swimming Pool etc. in New Delhi**

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\*1212. { Shri Radha Raman  
          { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta.

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have approved any scheme of New Delhi Municipal Committee regarding (i) Children's Park, (ii) a swimming pool, (iii) an open air theatre, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The New Delhi Municipal Committee have sanctioned schemes for (i) establishment of a Children's Park at India Gate and

(ii) construction of a swimming pool in the compound of the M.B. Higher Secondary School, Reading Road, New Delhi. The plans for these projects have been prepared by the Chief Architect, C.P.W.D. The Committee have no proposal for constructing an open air theatre, but a scheme for setting up a National Youth Centre, which will include an open air theatre is under consideration of the Government of India in the Ministry of Education.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(1) **Children's Park**—The New Delhi Municipal Committee have sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of a Children's Park at India Gate in accordance with a plan prepared by the Chief Architect, C.P.W.D. The Committee propose to establish this park on the lines of Japanese Model Park. Necessary work is likely to be started very shortly.

(2) **Swimming Pool**—The Committee propose to construct a swimming pool in the compound of the M.B. Higher Secondary School, Reading Road, New Delhi. Detailed plans for the scheme have recently been prepared by the Chief Architect and will be considered by the Committee in due course.

(3) **Open Air Theatre**—The Union Ministry of Education have drawn up a scheme for setting up a National Youth Centre, which will include an open air theatre. This centre is proposed to be set up in the ridge area near Talkatora Gardens.

**Shri Radha Raman:** In the statement it is said that the Committee propose to establish this park on the lines of the Japanese Model Park. What will be the actual features of these Japanese parks? May I also know whether any assistance will be sought from the Japanese Government or the Japanese Embassy in this connection?