

prices were applied in Southern India the practice has grown. Then they would give retrospective effect. Three or four years ago the prices were there from Rs. 1-4 to Rs. 2. Then people did not complain that because they had grown a year earlier therefore they should be paid only Rs. 1-4 and not Rs. 2. If they were to get the profit, then they should also get the loss. But, as I have said, we are examining the problem. We will discuss it with the Mysore Government, and whatever relief is possible will be given.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any regard was paid to the cost of production in that area and any percentage of profit was allowed in fixing the price of sugar-cane?

Shri Kidwai: The Tariff Board had looked into this and according to their report, this year the cost should have been Rs. 1/3 or Rs. 1/4 and not Rs. 1/5 which we have fixed.

Sardar Lal Singh: Has Government considered the desirability of fixing the price of cane a year in advance to enable the cultivators to decide whether to grow sugar-cane or any other crop?

Shri Kidwai: The price for cane has to be fixed according to the market rates, i.e. of *gur* and sugar. You cannot fix a price a year in advance and then we cannot force the sugar mills not to crush any sugarcane because cane price is high and sugar price is low.

Shri Gopala Rao: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister on the floor of the Council of States the other day, what steps Government are going to take to see that a proper share is given to the sugar-cane growers also from the profits made by the mill-owners?

Shri Kidwai: I explained to the Government of Madras that the mills in South India are in an advantage because they do not produce sugar sufficient for the local consumption. Therefore they have to compete with the North Indian sugar, prices of which are enhanced by the transport charges. Therefore I have suggested to the Madras Government that they may so arrange that a part of this profit may be transferred to the cane growers. They are looking into the matter.

Shri Punnoose: Are Government aware that while the price of sugar-cane is reduced, the price of the fertilizers supplied by these mills as well as the loans advanced by these mills are enhanced?

Shri Kidwai: We are aware of this fact that the fertiliser prices have gone up, that in many places the irrigation charges have also gone up but the cane grower has to see that if it is not profitable to grow cane, then he will welcome diverting it to foodgrains.

RAIDS IN KUTCH

Shri Bhawanji: (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some armed dacoits from Western Pakistan (Sind) periodically raid the villages in Kutch and escape with the loot?

(b) Is it a fact that on or about the 17th November, 1952, Nani-Tumbdi a village in the taluka of Mundra was raided by armed dacoits from Western Pakistan (Sind) and after desecrating an idol in a Jain temple and looting the villages again escaped?

(c) Is it a fact that as a result of these periodical raids and failure of the Government of Kutch so far to protect life, property and religious places great nervousness prevails in Kutch?

(d) If the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to stop the occurrences of this nature?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (d). In November 1952 two dacoities were committed in Kutch by people coming from the southern parts of Sind. The first took place at a village called Ratadia in Lakhnat Taluka. Four dacoits came and after belabouring some of the inhabitants and frightening them by gun shots in the air, looted property worth Rs. 3,780/- and a camel. The second incident took place on the 17th November at village Tumbdi in Mundra Taluka. Here seven dacoits, five from Pakistan and two local people, entered the village, fired gun shots and took away property worth about Rs. 25,000/-. The dacoits also took away the ornaments of an idol in a Jain Temple. The Chief Commissioner is taking all necessary steps to tighten the police arrangements in Kutch.

Shri Bhawanji: May I know how many police outposts are on this long border of 200 miles and the strength of each one of them?

Dr. Katju: I require notice of that question.

Shri Bhawanji: Is it a fact that the border police detected the entry into Kutch of these dacoits on the 14th of November but the information could

not reach police headquarters till 16th as the wireless set at the border was out of order and the nearest telegraph office to the border is at a distance of 80 miles?

Dr. Katju: The facts stated are correct and that is why the Chief Commissioner is taking all necessary steps to remove all such defects.

Shri Bhawanji: Is it a fact that the village of Tumbdi is situated at a distance of 120 miles from the Western Pakistan border?

Dr. Katju: I suppose geographically it is so.

Shri Bhawanji: Is it a fact that the dacoits in the Tumbdi raid remained in Kutch for about a week?

Dr. Katju: I cannot tell you that. My hon. friend knows much more than I know.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already got the information.

Shri Bhawanji: Is it a fact that the dacoits entered the village of Tumbdi at about 5 in the evening on the 17th of November and stayed in that village till midnight?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are all details.

Shri Bhawanji: What I am trying to show is that the police did not reach there till the next morning.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The information can be conveyed to the Minister.

Shri Gadgil: May I know, in view of what has happened, whether Government will consider the desirability of giving adequate arms to the villagers, and the desirability of constituting a special mobile column of the police?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is there any proposal to arm local border people in view of the fact that there are regular dacoities?

Dr. Katju: Not so far as I know but that proposal will be considered. There is a local police and there is a detachment of the Central Police Reserve and if necessary, police force will be strengthened and all measures taken to enable the villagers to defend themselves and to stop these dacoities. When you get these border incidents, this sometimes happens.

Shri Jasani: May I know when the police reached Tumbdi after the incident?

Dr. Katju: I have not got the exact information. They may have reached there the next day.

Shri Jasani: In the case of the first dacoity, in Ratadia, at what time did the police reach the place after the incident?

Dr. Katju: The next day.

Shri Bhawanji: Is it a fact that one Police Sub-Inspector who tried to capture dacoits from Sindh was killed about 8 months ago and no reward as is permissible under the Service Rules has been sanctioned so far and is it a fact that the local people and the police force in Kutch collected about Rs. 5000 and paid it to the family of this late Sub-Inspector?

Dr. Katju: I would like to have notice.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Will the hon. Minister say what the strength of the border police is? It is not clear.

Dr. Katju: I cannot give the number.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: What is the population in that area, between the border and the police station?

Dr. Katju: Notice.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is there a comparative relaxation of the Arms Act...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am proceeding to the next question.

SUPPLY OF BAD QUALITY OF FOODGRAINS AT DELHI RATION SHOPS

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the wheat that was some time ago withdrawn by the authorities from the Delhi Ration Shops, has recently been dumped again at the Ration Shops, and some parts of the city are receiving bad quality of foodgrains?

(b) Is it a fact that of 40,000 tons of such damaged foreign imported wheat, nearly 30,000 tons have already been consumed by the Delhi public, and about 10,000 tons still remains, and is being issued at the shops?

(c) Have Government received protests from the public?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Imported wheat is being issued to the Delhi public in the ration