

the declaration of Brow-antlered deer called Sangai found in Manipur State and pigmy-hog found on the foot-hills of Bhutan both of which have now become almost extinct as protected animals. May I know whether the local Governments have been consulted in regard to the preservation of these species and what are their recommendations.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got their recommendations with me. I am sure, if they deserve to be protected, the Board will certainly take necessary steps.

COST OF PRODUCTION OF SUGAR-CANE

*715. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made by Government to calculate the cost of production of sugar-cane in India;

(b) the policy in regard to allowing of profit over the cost of production of sugar-cane and sugar to the producer and manufacturer respectively; and

(c) the causes of the disparity, if any, between the margins of profits so allowed?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Yes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research financed an elaborate scheme during 1933-36 to ascertain the cost of production of cane, but on analysis, it was found that the data were of doubtful validity. In 1949 again, a Technical Committee was appointed to enquire into the cost of production of sugar-cane and this committee also came to the conclusion that the factors influencing cost varied so widely from year to year, from place to place and from cultivator to cultivator that an average could not be validly worked out. There was also the difficulty that reliable data of costs were not available because cultivators did not maintain accounts. In the light of the difficulties attached to ascertaining the cost of production from data furnished by cultivators, Government have based their price policy on wider considerations. For example, if under a particular minimum price the area under cane tended to increase, that would be evidence of the price being above the cost of production. Diversion between the cane area and alternative crops would be another factor throwing light on the appropriate minimum price for cane.

As regards the price allowed to the manufacturer of sugar, the policy has been to take into account the known

average costs of the raw material, labour charges, other over-heads and then to allow a profit of 10 per cent. on block capital to cover the risks and the profit element of the industrialists. Since most of the sugar factories were put up several years ago, calculation of 10 per cent on the original block capital in effect means a smaller percentage on its present value. The policy of Government is not to allow undue profit, at the expense of the consumer, to either the producer of sugar-cane or to the manufacturer of sugar but to fix such prices as will allow fair margins to all the parties concerned.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know to what extent cost of production of sugar-cane itself is taken into consideration in assessing the price of the raw material?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is difficult to say to what extent, because, as I have already stated in my answer, the cost of production of sugar-cane is very difficult to determine. But every effort is made to determine what must be the approximate cost of production, and then various factors which I have mentioned are taken into account. I have deliberately given a long reply in order to explain Government's position.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: In view of the answer given, may I know what is the basis for ascertaining the approximate cost of production of cane; what is the machinery?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The basis is very uncertain. We cannot get the data from the cultivators because they do not keep accounts, and from other sources also it is difficult to get them. But here we try to have as close an approximation as possible, and, after fixing it, we allow 10 per cent by way of profit margin and then fix the price.

सेट गोविन्द दास: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि सारा खर्चा गन्ने को पैदा करने का वैसे ही रहते हुए भी उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने गन्ने की कीमत एक रुपये बारह आने मन से एक रुपया मन कर भी है ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किदवई): मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट की कोई गलती नहीं है, यह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने किया है ?

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने सब चीजों का खर्चा वैसा का वैसा रहते हुए भी एक रुपये १२ आने मन से गन्ने की कीमत एक रुपया मन किस हिसाब से की ?

श्री किदवई : मंत्री साहब को गलत इत्तला है कि एक रुपये की गई, एक रुपये ५ आने दाम हैं।

सेठ गोविन्द मौस : एक रुपया पांच आने भी किया है तो सात आने का जो फ़र्क है क्या वह जो गन्ने के उत्पादन करने में खर्च होता है उस को मद्देनजर रखते हुए ठीक है ?

श्री किदवई : मंत्री साहब अगर यहाँ हिन्दुस्तान में रहते हैं तो उन को मालूम होगा कि सन् १९४८ में गन्ने के दाम एक रुपये चार आने थे, जब कि गेहूँ वगैरह के दाम इस से ज्यादा थे। आज कल गेहूँ वगैरह सब चीजों के दाम चूँकि घटे हैं, उसी हिसाब से गन्ने के दाम भी घटाए गये।

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि बिहार में बड़े बड़े काश्तकार गन्ने के सब खर्चों का हिसाब रखते हैं और उनके हिसाब में एक रुपया आठ आने से ज्यादा खर्चा होता है ?

श्री किदवई : अगर यह सही है तो मैं उन को सलाह दूँगा कि वह गन्ने के बजाय चावल बोयें। उस से उन को भी फायदा होगा और कंट्री को भी फायदा होगा।

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : क्या यह सरकार की पालिसी है कि गन्ने की उपज कम की जाय ?

श्री किदवई : सरकार की यह पालिसी है कि सरकार न देखा कि जब गन्ने के दाम

दो रुपये दिये गये, उस वक्त तो गन्ने की काश्त घट गयी, जब दूसरी चीजों के दाम ज्यादा थे और गन्ने की कीमत दरअसल एक रुपया बारह आने थी तो गन्ने की काश्त ३ लाख एकड़ बढ़ गयी और नतीजा यह हुआ कि पिछले साल गन्ना बहुत सारा खराब हुआ और कुछ जलाया गया। तो ऐसी कीमत बढ़ाने की जरूरत नहीं है कि जिससे गन्ने की काश्त ज्यादा बढ़े और कंट्री में उस का कंजम्पशन न हो सके।

श्री सिद्दासन सिंह : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि सरकार खुद गन्ने का निष्पी फार्म रखती है, उस पर गन्ना पैदा करने की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन पर कितना खर्च आता है ?

श्री किदवई : मैं समझता हूँ कि इस हाउस के बहुत से मंत्रियों को यह शिकायत है कि सरकार की तरफ से जो काम होता है उस में खर्च ज्यादा होता है।

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्रीजी से यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो कीमत गन्ने की सरकार ने कायम की है वह किसानों के हित में ज्यादा है, क्योंकि वह कीमत मुक़रर नहीं करती तो किसानों को मिल से इतनी कीमत नहीं मिलती ?

श्री किदवई : वह किसानों के हित में ज्यादा है और मुल्क के हित में भी ज्यादा है, क्योंकि यहाँ शक्कर के कारखाने चलने हैं तो हालत ऐसी होनी चाहिये कि शक्कर सस्ती मिल सके और वह बाहर भी भेजी जा सके। एक रुपया १२ आने या एक रुपये ५ आने में भी हमारी शक्कर के जो दाम पड़ते हैं वह बाहर की शक्कर से बहुत ज्यादा हैं। मिसाल के तौर पर मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि अभी पाकिस्तान ने स्पेन से ४१ पौंड पर टन के हिसाब से, यानी २०,२१ या

साढ़े इक्कीस रुपये मन पर शक्कर मंगाई है, जब कि हमारे यहां शक्कर के इतने ज्यादा दाम हैं। तो अगर शक्कर के कारखानों को सही काम करना है तो मुनासिब कीमत पर शक्कर तैयार होनी चाहिये और उस की बजह से कम दाम रखना जरूरी है।

Shri Gopala Rao: Is it a fact that after a serious study the Technical Committee have worked out that the cost of production for sugar-cane will be Rs. 1-9 per maund?

Shri Kidwai: I do not know to what Committee the hon. Member is referring; but the matter was referred to the Tariff Board a few years ago, and they had calculated that in 1953 the cane prices should be between Rs. 1-2 and Rs. 1-4.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether Government has made any attempt to calculate the margin of profit allowed to manufacturers of sugar on the cost of production?

Shri Kidwai: As no sugar price has been fixed, there is no question of fixing a margin of profit. But we have seen that when the sugar stock in the country is much more than can be consumed in the year, then the prices are bound to come down very much, and in the competition they will not get the profit that they might expect.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में सरकारी और गैर सरकारी फार्मों में कुछ जगहों पर १५ आने और १८ आने खर्च करने पर आता है ?

श्री किडवाई : यह तो मुझे मालूम नहीं है, लेकिन मैं यह भी समझता हूँ कि एक रुपये दस आने भा आता है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these can be discussed during the Budget. I have spent nearly ten minutes over this one question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know how the price of sugar-cane paid by mill-owners in India compares with the price they pay in foreign countries like Cuba and Porto Rico?

Shri Kidwai: 60 per cent. of the cost of sugar comes from the sugar-cane. As they are able to sell it at Rs. 18 or Rs. 15 a maund, the price should necessarily be much less than it is here.

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*17. **Shri Kasliwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what were the conclusions reached by the ninth Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference?

(b) Have any of them been implemented?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The specific conclusions reached at the ninth Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held at Patna in January, 1951, were the following:—

- (i) Compulsory provident funds should be introduced in industrial undertakings.
- (ii) Legislation should be undertaken for the creation of welfare funds in industrial undertakings.

(b) The following action has been taken by the Government of India on the conclusions reached by the Conference:

- (i) Provident Funds have been instituted on a statutory basis in respect of six selected industries.
- (ii) Outlines of a Bill providing for the creation of welfare funds in industrial undertakings were prepared and placed before the eleventh session of the Indian Labour Conference held in August, 1951. The matter is still receiving consideration.

Shri Kasliwal: What are those six selected industries?

Shri V. V. Giri: Paper, textiles, engineering, electrical, mechanical and general engineering, cement, cigarettes, iron and steel.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether this conference recommended anything regarding the agricultural labourers?

Shri V. V. Giri: This conference did not deal with agricultural labour.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether in the scheme of the provident fund, an equal amount will be contributed by the management and if so, what is the percentage?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think 6½ per cent.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether a time limit has been fixed for implementation of the recommendations of this conference?