

financial help from the Government of India, and may I know whether the Government are proposing to set up any other *Ayurvedic* research centre anywhere else in India?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** This is the only Institute that I know of, which has been set up by the Central Government. As for the other part of the question, I require notice.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether the *Siddha* system has been included in this indigenous medicine, for research purposes?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He wants to know whether this is purely for *Ayurveda* or for the *Siddha* system also.

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** This is for indigenous systems of medicine. I think *Siddha* system also will be included, if anybody is interested in doing research on it.

**Shri Achuthan:** May I know whether any herbs gardens have been attached to this Institute, for the purpose of growing certain varieties of herbs in India?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** I require notice.

#### MENTAL HOSPITAL AT RANCHI

\*1081. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the position at present with regard to the proposal for taking over the inter-State Mental Hospital at Ranchi?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** The contributing States, who were consulted in the matter, have stated that they have no objection to the Central Government taking over the Hospital for Mental Diseases, Ranchi, and the question of future administration is being examined with reference to its financial and administrative implications.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** How long has the matter been under examination?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** The Central Government wrote to the various

States for their consent. Only recently, about a few weeks back, we got a reply from the West Bengal Government, that they are willing to accept the proposal of the Central Government taking over this institution.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Are the Government aware that because of the hospital being under different States, such as Bihar, West Bengal, and the Central Government, there is a sort of indifference and inefficiency prevailing, and therefore the necessity of taking over by the Central Government is urgent and immediate?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This is implied in the question. An inquiry has been made of the various States.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the names of the contributing Governments? May I also know whether when the Central Government take over this institution, all the establishment will be handed over to them, or they will have to spend something?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** The idea of taking over the mental hospital is to upgrade it as a research and teaching institute on mental health. The various States that were contributing towards the upkeep of the hospital were West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Delhi and a few others, from where patients were being sent to this hospital.

#### IMPORT OF SUGAR

\*1082. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar imported into India since the beginning of the current financial year:

(b) the country or countries from which it has been imported; and

(c) the prices at which it was imported?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) 6,300 tons from Java. But purchase of another 1,30,000 tons sugar has also been completed

(b) and (c). A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure 'No. 36]

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether this sugar has been imported on Government account or through private permit-holders?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is imported on Government account, but the agencies through which import has been made, are mentioned in the statement.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** The immediate object of importing sugar is said to be to bring down the prices of sugar. Is it not a fact that the prices have been brought down to some extent only in Delhi, while in other parts of India, the price remains as high as it was?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The prices were a little higher than they should have been, and therefore this sugar has been imported, so that it may be sold at prices at which our controlled sugar should have been sold, and thus control the prices in the market.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** What are the arrangements for holding these stocks of imported sugar, and also for handling and releasing them so as to ensure that the retail consumers get it at the desired price?

**Shri Kidwai:** So far as Bengal is concerned....

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** I am not asking only for Bengal....

**Shri Kidwai:** I have to explain the position from place to place. So far as Bengal is concerned, a distributing agency has been formed, which will handle this sugar, and it has undertaken to sell this sugar at uniform prices throughout the State, viz at As. 12½ per seer; thus the prices will remain steady. As for the other port towns, in Bombay also, an association is being formed, but the position has not been finalised yet. In other places, it will be released to private trade at the wholesale rate mentioned here.

**Shri Raghuramiah:** May I know whether the production of sugar in this country is not sufficient to meet our requirements, whether this import is meant only to bring down prices, and whether the Government are satisfied that this is the best way of doing it?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We had a discussion on this.

**Shri Kidwai:** We had several discussions and questions were answered.

**Sardar Lal Singh:** Considering the acute unemployment, the capacity of India to produce the required quantity of sugar and thirdly, the fact that the manufacture of 2 lakh tons of sugar would give employment to lakhs of people, is it really in the interest of the country to import sugar from abroad?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. Sardar Sahib knows about the sugar industry more than any Member here. I think the hon. Member knows that the sugar factories have already closed down. Therefore, importing of additional sugar would not close down any factory. The import has been to control the prices and to ensure that the consumers get sugar at reasonable rates.

**Shri Gadgil:** May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister has found out the fool-proof formula which will adjust the interests of the consumer, the cane grower and the producer, to which a reference was made by him a few days ago?

**Shri Kidwai:** The fool-proof formula is the formula to have in the market more sugar than can be consumed and therefore, the prices will remain low.

**Shri Gadgil:** Have you found it out?

**Shri Kidwai:** I have found it.

**Shri Bansal:** May I know, Sir, what is the source of the information of the hon. Minister when he stated that the hon. Member, Sardar Lal Singh, knows better than anybody else in this House about our sugar industry?

**Shri Kidwai:** I accepted his claim. I did not go into the matter.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No cross questions and answers.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know, Sir, if it has come to the notice of the Minister that in the case of the Bengal Syndicate which has been set up to distribute sugar in Bengal, the price can be reduced further by 2 pice and yet ensure a profit of Rs. 2-12-0 per maund? Has this been done, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shri Kidwai:** I have not perhaps followed the hon. Member correctly. But the sugar prices will be uniform prices. Therefore; it may be that the profit at Calcutta is a little larger. But money spent in transporting to Cooch-Bihar and other places will have to be taken into consideration and then prices in Calcutta, Cooch-Bihar, Darjeeling and other far distant places will remain the same.

**An Hon. Member rose.—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members may know that simultaneously when a number of hon. Members stand, I just have a picture as to who are all standing. Then after they sit down, I call on the hon. Members who want to put questions. But if an hon. Member sits down when I ask him to get up, I cannot persuade him to get up. **Shri V. B. Gandhi.**

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** Is it.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Why should hon. Members get up before they formulate questions?

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** Government have imported so much of sugar now and if the controls had been in force now, do Government think that they could have done without the necessity of importing sugar?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This is asking hypothetical questions for getting hypothetical answers.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We had a bitter experience of controls.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** The hon. Minister just referred to distributing agencies having been formed in Bengal and also in Bombay. Are these agencies private agencies or Government agencies, and by whom are they administered?

**Shri Kidwai:** They are private agencies. I understand that a special distributing company—a limited company—has been formed which has undertaken to sell this sugar throughout Bengal in distant villages and in big cities at a uniform price. I think this will serve the consumer better than any other arrangement.

**श्री बिभूति मिश्र:** अजी मंत्री जी ने कहा कि साढ़े बारह आना सेर चीनी बाजारों में मिलती है। इस तरह से ३१ ६० ४ आ० मन चीनी का दाम हुआ। लेकिन ऊख उपजाने वालों को २७ रुपये मन चीनी की कीमत के अनुसार गन्ने का दाम दिया। तो क्या मंत्री जी की इस नीति से केन उपजाने वालों को सवा चार रुपये मन के हिसाब से जो गन्ने की (proportional) कीमत मिलती उसमें बाटा नहीं पड़ा है ?

**श्री किशबई:** यह कीमत इसी हिसाब से लगाई गयी है कि मिलों में २७ रुपये पर, शकर बिकेगी तो वहां जा कर गवर्नमेंट के टैंक्स, रेल का भाड़ा और मोटर का भाड़ा, सब मिला कर कलकत्ते में ३२ रुपये पर बिकेगी, बम्बई में ३० रुपये पर बिकेगी और मद्रास में ३० रुपये पर बिकेगी। उसी पर २७ रुपये का हिसाब लगाया गया है।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It has often been admitted by the hon. Minister himself that the price that the consumer has to pay in India is very high. May I enquire whether it is not the highest in the world?

**Shri Kidwai:** I do not know what is the price in our neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Ceylon; but it is much higher than ours. Our price is

based on the cost of production of sugar in this country.

**Shri Jhunjunwala:** Arising out of the answer of the hon. Minister that sugar is distributed in port towns and some agencies have been formed, is it the policy of the Government to supply sugar at cheap rates only in ports, and is the Government satisfied that the distributing agencies which had been formed are selling at a reasonable price or they are selling it at very high rates?

**Shri Kidwai:** The distribution has been arranged at a fixed price. We have yet to see whether this fixed price will be adhered to or abused. So far as Government is concerned, if, say, I find that the prices in Meerut have gone up to Rs. 30, then I will send sugar to Meerut and sell it at Rs. 27-4-0 there.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Is the hon. Minister aware that when introducing the sugar cess of Re. 1 per maund he made an announcement that sugar would be selling at 10 annas per seer, but now it is selling at about 13 annas per seer? Has he taken any steps to see that sugar is sold according to his statement made in the House?

**Shri Kidwai:** I do not know who made that wonderful statement.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, Sir, if the majority of the shares of the limited company which has been formed are held by the Bengal Sugar Merchants' Association and the Bengal Sugar Syndicate both of which have a very black record?

**Shri Kidwai:** I have no information as to who constitutes the Board. That firm has been recommended to us by the Bengal Government. As a matter of fact, it is for the Bengal Government to distribute it itself or to entrust it to somebody else.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What I would like to say is this. I do not know anything about these institutions. The hon. Member possibly has got all information about them. But as far as possible, on the floor of the House,

such incidental references as 'black record' and so on regarding persons who have not got an opportunity to defend themselves here may be avoided.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** When the hon. lady Member spoke about 'black record', it was about the Sugar Syndicate. Her information is that the Sugar Syndicate is connected with this newly-formed limited company. If it is not connected with it, the Minister might say that it is not.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** I may also refer in this connection to the findings of the Ganganath Committee.

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

#### IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

\*1083. **Shri Radha Raman:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there has been any cut in the import of foodgrains in India during the year 1953-54?

(b) If so, what is the amount of such cut and under which items?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Foodgrains are imported on a calendar year basis. Against the requirements for the year 1953 the cut in the imports of foodgrains is likely to be about 2 lakh tons in wheat, 5 lakh tons in rice and 1 lakh tons in milo making a total of about 8 lakh tons.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know, Sir, if this cut is due to sufficient stock in hand or expected increase in foodgrains production due to reclamation of land or improved methods of agriculture? Does the Minister propose to apply rationing in more towns in India?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Obviously, the reduction in import is due to more production in this country and also to relaxations in the control which have brought more foodgrains in the market than was previously available.