

(b) It was not acceptable to the displaced persons on account of its being of very inferior quality or being situated near the border.

(c) In respect of (a) (i) above, the price has already been credited to the Pool, and action for crediting the price for remaining land is also in hand by the Punjab Government.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know whether any condition has been laid down or any direction given to the Punjab Government that in case there is any unsatisfied claimant or a claimant who wants to exchange land with this agricultural area, it shall be done by the Punjab Government?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** No condition has been laid down. This land was offered to the displaced persons, but they would not have it. That is the reason why we have given it to the Punjab Government.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** The hon. Minister has stated that it was offered to the displaced persons. May I know whether it was done through the Punjab Government or directly, and whether there is any list of the persons to whom this was offered?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** In the earlier stages, an organisation was set up, as the hon. Member knows, to deal with this land allotment scheme, for, God knows, how many lakhs of acres, to at least five lakhs families. This land forms part of the evacuee pool, and as such, it was offered to the displaced persons, but, for two reasons, namely inferior quality and closeness to the border, it was not accepted by them.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** My question is whether still the Punjab Government would give this land in exchange, in case any displaced persons want it? Has any direction been issued to that effect?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I have already answered that in the negative saying that we have sold the land to the Punjab Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no condition attached.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** No.

#### Export of Hemp

\*1705. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world demand for Indian hemp has fallen; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to revive its foreign market?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main reason for decline in world demand for Indian hemp is stiffer competition from cheaper substitutes.

Steps are being taken to increase production, improve quality and provide facilities like priority in rail-movement.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** What steps have been taken to improve the quality of hemp?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The State Departments of Agriculture have been addressed to distribute better seed and to take other steps by which better quality can be produced.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** What is the percentage of the fall in exports?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Exports have come down from about 1 lakh tons in 1958 to about 86,000 tons in 1960.

#### Fertilizers for Tea Industry

\*1707. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government exercise any control on the procurement and distribution of fertilisers for the Tea Industry in order to help the Industry regain its lost position in World Market; and

(b) if so, what agency is responsible to see that proper types of fertilizers are made available to the plantations at proper time and in proper quantities?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):**

(a) and (b). The distribution of nitrogenous fertilisers is arranged through licensed distributors approved by Government in terms of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1957. On the basis of the demands for nitrogenous fertilisers for the tea industry and taking into account the supplies available, allotments are made by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in favour of approved firms for distribution to tea gardens. The Tea Board exercises control on the sale of fertilisers by these firms to the tea gardens.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether the demand from the industry is for sulphate of ammonia, but in place of that sulphate of nitrate is being supplied and that is the reason why the industry is unwilling to accept the stuff, and consequently production has gone down?

**Mr. Speaker.** He is giving information instead of seeking it.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** I want to know whether it is a fact that in place of sulphate of ammonia, a wrong fertiliser has been supplied to the tea industry in the form of sulphate of nitrate?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The major quantity has been supplied in the form of ammonium sulphate. There is some prejudice in north-east India against any other type of fertiliser. South India is using other fertilisers also and I think they are not as bad as imagined. If the tea gardens begin

using sulphate nitrate and urea to some extent, they will realise their value.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** From north-east India the requirement of sulphate of ammonia was 1,04,428 tons. Against that, the allotment made was 82,721 tons. As against 16,000 tons of ammonium sulphate nitrate required, 24,000 tons were supplied. That is to say, more sulphate nitrate than asked for was given. I want to know whether it is a fact that the tea industry has not been able to get its full quota of sulphate of ammonia and hence tea production has gone down.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It is true that out of 73,728 tons of sulphate of ammonia demanded by the tea industry in north-east India, we could allocate only about 54,000 tons. But we allocated 2,000 tons of urea. Ammonium sulphate nitrate, which has got an ammonium sulphate content, was supplied to the extent of 17,000 tons against 2,000 tons to make up for the shortage of ammonium sulphate. In fact, the total demand in terms of nitrogen has been supplied to the tea industry in north-east India during the last year.

**Shri Jinachandran:** May I know whether it is a fact that fertiliser is being sold to big firms who mix it and sell it at exorbitant prices to the planters?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** There are separate firms, 19 in north-east India and 13 or 14 in south India, which are appointed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for distribution of fertiliser to the tea industry according to its needs and requirements.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it not supplied as a mixture?

**Shri Jinachandran:** Will Government see to it that the tea planters get the fertiliser straight instead of getting a mixture from these firms which charge exorbitant prices?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** As regards these details, the hon. Member may

table a separate question to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. My information is that the tea gardens get the fertilisers in the form they desire from the firms approved by Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** If there is any such complaint, he may refer to the Food and Agriculture Ministry. The question is getting mixed up.

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** May I know whether the Food Ministry has received any complaint from any tea estate owners in Assam with regard to short supply of fertilisers?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The fertilisers have been allocated in full last year, as I said just now. The difficulty is that the entire quantity has not been supplied in the form of ammonium sulphate which is sometimes desired. We have supplied it partly in the form of ammonium sulphate and partly in the form of ammonium sulphate nitrate which is slightly different in composition from ammonium sulphate.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** Is it a fact that some of the tea gardens wanted urea for the purpose of making mixed fertiliser mixtures and the Government have replied that it is in short supply?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** No, Sir. Any amount of urea can be supplied. We want to encourage the use of urea, but the tea gardens do not want to use it.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Do I understand from the reply of the hon. Deputy Minister that they have not received any report from any tea estate that there is short supply?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** As I said just now, we supplied the total quantity last year. But the ammonium sulphate nitrate is not being accepted, and that creates the shortage.

**Shri G. K. Jedhe:** What measures are taken to give more of sulphate nitrate to the farmers instead of ammonium sulphate?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** All these allocations are made after careful consideration. The ammonium sulphate available from the only factory at Sindri has got to be properly distributed all over the country to meet the demands of other planters and other crops. It cannot all be allocated to one industry in one area.

#### Sealing of Bhutan Tibet Border

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\*1708. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Braj Raj Singh:**  
**Shri Radha Mohan Singh:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shrimati Maimoona Sultan**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Bhutan is sealing her border with Tibet?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** The reference is presumably to the entry of Tibetan refugees. The Government of Bhutan may desire to prevent further influx of refugees into Bhutan, as they are finding it difficult to settle those refugees who are already in Bhutan. So far as the Government of India are concerned, there has been no change in our attitude towards the grant of asylum to Tibetan refugees.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether Government have decided to screen Tibetan refugees crossing the border to determine whether they are genuine refugees coming to India? If so, what is the screening method envisaged?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** Strict screening is being done of fresh arrivals.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the number of refugees who came via Bhutan—I mean the Tibetan refugees who have been received by the Government of India and who came via Bhutan?