

**Knew-how from Japan to produce
Edible Oil from Rice Bran**

*67. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have approached the Government of Japan to donate know-how to produce excellent edible oil from rice bran;

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreements, if any; and

(c) what are the details regarding the import of edible oils at present from foreign countries alongwith the names of those countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Edible oils like soyabean oil, rapeseed oil, crude palm oil, RBD palm oil and palmolein are being imported to meet the gap between demand and supply of edible oils. The countries from which edible oils are mainly being imported are USA, Brazil, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: We know that excellent edible oil can be made available from rice bran, as has been investigated by our Research Institute. So, what steps is the Government taking to see that such oil is extracted.

Secondly, if edible oil can be produced from the bran available with the rice plants, why should not the know-how be imported from Japan?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the knowhow is concerned, it is not necessary to have it from Japan: we ourselves have the knowhow and we ourselves have the technology. But the major problem in regard to producing oil from rice bran in a big way is the peculiar nature of the rice milling industry in this country. As a result,

when we want to make it a commercial proposition, it becomes difficult. Unless the rice mills are modernised and the collection of rice bran is done on a commercial scale, it will not be possible to make it a commercially viable proposition, though efforts are being made.

I can give some figures to the Hon. Member from which he will find that production is going on. In 1976-77 it was just 70,000 tons but in 1978-79 the production has gone up to 1,01,000 tons.

This is about rice-bran oil mills. We are exploring the possibilities as to was just 70,000 tons but in 1978-79 the duction.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: We feel glad that the technical knowhow is sought to be utilised and it will be explored very early.

But in the reply it has been mentioned that soyabean oil is being imported. When soyabean is grown in our country, why is the oil being imported from foreign countries? Why should we not produce it here itself?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not a fact that we are not producing soyabean oil also. What I have said in the answer is that, to meet the gap between domestic availability and our demand, we are importing certain oils and there I have mentioned soyabean oil also. That does not mean that we are not producing soyabean oil in this country.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister: on the same lines, an experiment was made in milk, called the 'Flood-Operation' and the National Dairy Development Board and its Chairman Mr. Kurien had suggested a way out for making the country self-sufficient in edible oils by a new method to be introduced in our own country, for which an experiment has been proposed. Has this scheme been examined by the Government of India and if so what are his views about the same?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as this particular scheme is concerned, I have no information readily available with me, but I will collect the information and give it to the Hon. Member.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: What is the exact demand of the country for this edible oil, how much are we manufacturing and how much is the idle capacity existing in the edible oil plants?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The total imports..

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: You may first answer as to how much is the demand.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: With regard to the exact demand, Sir, the question relates just to rice bran oil and if the hon. Member wants to expand the area of the question, naturally it requires notice. Of course, I can give whatever figures I have.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants notice for that.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: It is not irrelevant. Kindly say whether I am putting any irrelevant question. Why is he not replying?

MR. SPEAKER: He says he will have to get fresh information for you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: For two out of three questions he has asked, he was getting up to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Is he prepared to do that?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You ask him. He is a very competent Minister that way.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This question relates particularly to rice bran. He wants to have the entire gamut of edible oils. How can I give him?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I said. ..All right, you please give a fresh notice for that.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: He has unnecessarily caused inconvenience to Members by first asking them to put questions and then he says he has no information. I know what is the difficulty.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: Does the Government propose to modernise the rice mills in the rice-producing areas so as to produce edible oil from rice bran? This has a very salutary effect on the economy of the rice-producing areas in the country. It is from that point of view that I would like to know, whether the Government proposes to modernise the rice mills so as to produce edible oils from rice bran.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In the reply to the first question I have already mentioned that as and when modernisation takes place and we can collect rice bran on a commercial scale, it is possible to expand the particular industry.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: In view of the huge imports of edible oils from abroad, I would like to ask a pertinent question of the hon. Minister. In view of the same ecological situation in the Andaman and Nicobar islands as in Malaysia, will the Government of India consider having a palm oil plant in the island so that gainful employment may be given to the islanders as also to meet the demand of edible oils in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion. He may consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satish Prasad Singh—not here Shri Shejwalkar.

Appointment of Fourth Pay Commission

*68. **SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:**
SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission for Central Government Employees is proposed to be appointed in 1980; and