

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

## OFFICIAL REPORT

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## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 16th February, 1954.

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-55 P.M.

## MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

## INCREASE IN PRICE OF SUGAR-CANE

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri R. N. Singh, which refers to the question of an increase in the price of sugar-cane, and the Government of India's refusal to accede to the demand of the sugar-cane growers. I should like to know what part the Government of India play in this matter.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** After debates in this House, this year we had fixed the price of sugar-cane at a little higher rate than it was last year. Everyone knows that the prices of agricultural commodities are coming down, and if the price of cane is retained at the present level, the result will be that we will have only cane, and the cane growers will be in difficulty, because gur will fetch any price, and cane also will not be crushed. That has been our experience in 1952, and even in earlier years. Therefore it is not possible to  
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raise the price above the present level. This question came up before the House before we adjourned in the last session, and as I told the House, I had advised the people to have a conference at Ramkola, where I would explain the position. Now some of the political workers advised the cane growers—it was the united effort of all the political parties—that if they discontinued the supply of cane to the factories from the 1st February, then perhaps I would be able to announce an increase in the price of cane when I addressed the cane growers at Ramkola. As soon as it was seen that notices were being served by the co-operative society in Uttar Pradesh to sugar-cane factories that supplies will be stopped from the 1st of this month unless the factories are prepared to pay higher prices, a press note was issued by the Food and Agriculture Ministry stating that it was not possible to increase the price, but if any factory was earning additional profit on account of the high prices of sugar, the cane growers would be given a reasonable share of the profit. When I reached Ramkola, I repeated the same thing, and on that press statement, the co-operative federation withdrew the notice. They said that they were satisfied with the assurance that they would get extra price, so long as sugar was getting an extra price. When I reached Ramkola, all the other parties met me, and there they decided that they would accept the formula. Now there were two parties. One was the party led by Mr. Shibbanlal Saxena, and the other led by the PSP. All of them agreed, and even Mr. Genda Singh who was in jail

[Shri Kidwai]

sent a message that the strike should be cancelled, and that this price should be accepted. The PSP leader who was there said that he would announce his decision after he had consulted his other colleagues in Lucknow. But in Lucknow, he was overruled.

But what is the position now? There is no cane strike. There is a tussle going on between the PSP leaders and the cane growers. The cane growers want to supply cane to the mills, but the PSP people are picketing it. Every factory in eastern U.P., and western U.P. is getting its full requirements, and the Bihar people have been wise enough not to look to their proposal. There is no strike today. There are some factories here in the neighbourhood, and if any Member of Parliament wants it, I can arrange that he will go and see what the position is. The cane growers are anxious to deliver their cane as early as possible, but the PSP leaders are picketing the mills. That is the position.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह (जिला गाजीपुर-  
पूर्व व जिला बलिया-दक्षिण पश्चिम) :  
२८८ केन प्रोग्रेस गिरफ्तार हो चुके हैं जिन में  
और लोग भी हैं। तो यह बात हम कैसे कह  
सकते हैं कि स्ट्राइक खत्म हो गयी है ?

**Shri Kidwai:** Only about 12 factories were affected by the strike. The stoppage of supply was in some factories for only one day, and in some others for two days. On the 7th February when the Ramkola conference was held, three factories were working in the western zone, and one factory in the eastern zone. One factory started working on the 9th February, and the factories here started working, since they knew the decision. Since then, this picketing has been started. I understand that it may be withdrawn, and even this formal withdrawal may be in a day or two.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal—West Cuttack):** May I be permitted to say a few words in this connection? During the last session, I had given notice of an adjournment motion, and on that occasion, the hon. Minister replied that the price had been increased, but I did not get the chance to say that the price had come down from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 1-3-0 and then went up to Rs. 1-5-0 or Rs. 1-7-0. At that time, you, Sir, did not want me to explain the matter any more. As a result of that adjournment motion of mine not having been considered, there has been a strike, since the 1st of this month. If there is no strike, may I know from the hon. Minister why he is importing in such a hurry about one lakh of tons of sugar or something like that, as we have been reading in the Press now? If there is no strike, what is the necessity in the middle of the crushing season to import sugar?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think there is some misapprehension. There is no hurried import. Last year the production was about 13.7 lakhs of tons, and the consumption was expected to be 17 lakhs of tons. We were carrying over 4 lakhs of tons, and therefore we first estimated that we would import about 2 lakhs of tons, but we found that we should import more, and accordingly we have imported 2.5 lakhs of tons.

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This year, production will be less not on account of any strike but because Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh crop has not been good. It will be about twelve or twelve and a half lakh of tons. If the consumption continues at the rate at which it was continuing last year, we may have to import, between 1st April and 30th March next year, about 5 lakh tons.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar):** Sir, I want to say a few words on this subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think that is necessary now. We need not go into the merits of the question.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** If you will give us the figures that are supplied by the Technological Research Institute in Lucknow, as to the weekly production figures, we will know the position.

**Shri Kidwai:** I can assure the hon. Member that this year's production is not lower than last year's.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I am not concerned at all with the merits of this case now. I wanted just to know as to whether the adjournment motion is admissible, and should be admitted.

डाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर उत्तर-पश्चिम) : उसी के सम्बन्ध में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : किस सम्बन्ध में ?

डाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : कि यह एडमिट होगा या नहीं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, मैं एडमिट होने की कनसेंट नहीं देना चाहता । मैं ने बहुत सुना और सुनने के बाद मेरा निश्चय यह हुआ है कि यह एडमिट नहीं होना चाहिए ।

#### KUMBH MELA TRAGEDY

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, there is another adjournment motion. As the hon. Member who has given notice of it wishes that I should mention it, I shall mention it. This adjournment motion is the same thing as was tabled yesterday—the same as the three adjournment motions which had been disposed of yesterday. I do not think it can come again today.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar):** I have got something fresh to say.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to entertain that.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma:** I am not going to discuss it, but.....

**Mr. Speaker:** May I ask the hon. Member to resume his seat? He will

see that a motion on an identical subject was tabled yesterday, and my consent was withheld. The question is closed now.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma:** I want to refer to it, because Kumbh Mela is going to be repeated in other States also.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I do not propose to hear that. The hon. Minister of Production will not make a statement.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma:** Any time for discussion on my motion?

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no discussion on that point. He need not interfere with the proceedings now.

#### STATEMENT RE: SITE FOR NEW STEEL PLANT

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** In my statement to the House on the 24th August, 1953, on the project for a new Steel Plant, I had indicated that the German Firms of Krupp & Demag with whom we had arrived at an agreement, would be asked to tender their advice on the location of the plant, its design, erection and operation. Accordingly, the technical experts of the German firms visited the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and studied earlier technical reports and the Memoranda submitted by these Governments. They collected additional data, inspected the proposed sites, and held discussions with the Governments as well as with the Central authorities concerned. After a study and assessment of the material so collected, both here and in association with their top technical experts in Germany, they have recommended the location of the new Steel Plant at Rourkela in Orissa.

The Government of India have very carefully examined this recommendation. They have considered the views of the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa, on the report of the Consultants. They have also had the benefit of discussions with