

certain tremendous dynamic energy which he possessed.

Of course, as happens to all of us, with the passage of time and age, there was a certain physical weakness which came to him and he could not function lately as he used to function. But, all those who knew him in those days will well remember that dynamic energy which he put into his work, and his sacrifices. A great figure has passed away, not only great in terms of Andhra State of which he might well be said to be the founder in a sense, but a great figure in the all-India scene; and it is fitting that we pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Speaker: I fully associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed both by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister. I am personally very much aggrieved to learn about the death of Shri T. Prakasam. I had very great opportunities to work under him. He started with humble beginnings and rose to the position of the foremost statesman in Andhra. He was a person of indomitable will and courage.

I recollect an incident during the Simon Commission days. When all the other leaders left Madras and they did not propose to oppose and ask Mr. Simon to go back, Shri Prakasam came to the front, removed his shirt and said that he might be shot at. He was a person who made sacrifice of all his wealth. He was a leading Barrister in Madras and had a lot of property, but when he died I do not think he had even a copper vessel in his house.

He paved the way for the Andhra State and fought relentlessly for it. He remained an outstanding example for all Andhras and others also in this country for service and sacrifice. Though he retired from the Chief Ministership his advice was constantly sought after by the present Chief Minister. The whole of Andhra mourns his loss. I am glad that both the hon. the Home Minister and the Prime Minister have paid glowing tri-

butes to his memory. I would request the House to stand in silence for a minute.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ORDER UNDER COMPANIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): On behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Order No. 3(1)-CL-VI/57, dated the 30th March, 1957, under sub-section (4) of Section 89 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library See No. S-49/57.]

DIRECTION ISSUED BY SPEAKER UNDER RULES OF PROCEDURE

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Direction No. 83A issued by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. S-50/57.]

STATEMENT RE DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 1953-54

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): On behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget. (General) for 1953-54.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SUGARCANE PRICES

Shri Khushwaqt Rai (Kheri): I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the situation resulting from reduction in sugarcane prices in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and its inadequate supply to Mills.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): I may mention at the outset that no reduction in cane price has been allowed in case of Bihar. In case of U.P. the price of cane has been linked with sugar recovery with effect from

[Shri M. V. Krishnappa]

8th May as was done last year. The price of cane was also linked with recovery in 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1954-55 seasons, but that was done from 1st of May. In 1953-54, practically all the sugar factories close by the end of April and the need for such linking did not arise.

As you may be aware, sugar recovery begins to fall from the beginning of May due to inversion of sucrose content in cane owing to heat. If the recovery falls below a certain limit, sugar factories do not find it economical to continue crushing and they refuse to work unless necessary reduction is made in the cane price. Government has no power to compel factories to work at a loss. The basic limit for sugar factories in U. P. where the cane surpluses generally occur, is taken as 9.6 per cent. When the recovery falls below this figure, it becomes unavoidable in the interest of growers to link the price of cane with recovery. This is done on the basis of a prescribed schedule. The average price of cane paid by factories in U.P. in May 1956 was nearly Rs. 1-3-0 per maund. The corresponding figures for June was Rs. 1-1-9 per maund.

This year, the area under cane in U.P. was reported to be about 19 per cent more than last year. In order that the factories may not have to continue crushing late in June-July as was the case last year, steps were taken to persuade the factories to start early by giving them a concession of five annas per maund of cane crushed. Of this concession, two annas were met by the Central Government, two annas by the State Government and one anna by the cane grower in the form of reduction in the minimum price of cane. This concession was available to all such factories as started crushing operations by the 4th of November and on all cane crushed by them up to the 12th November. As a result of this concession, 16 factories started crushing by about 4th November as against one last year. Further, in view of the fact that some of the

factories in West U. P. had to continue crushing late in June and even in July last year, cultivators were also warned in the beginning of this season that they should make necessary arrangements for crushing their surplus cane into gur. I may mention that it is not economical to start crushing earlier than the first week of November. The sugar recovery in the second fortnight of October does not generally average more than 7 per cent. It is about 8 to 9 per cent in November as against 11 per cent in the peak months of January and February and 9.5 to 10 per cent for the season as a whole. The recovery in May is on the whole higher than up to the middle of November.

During the current season, 101.30 lakh tons of cane were crushed up to 7th of May in U. P. as against 87.05 lakh tons during 1955-56. About 9.3 lakh tons on cane remain to be crushed on that date as against about 12.40 lakh tons last year. In order that the entire outstanding cane is crushed as early as possible, all possible steps were taken by the State Government to divert cane from surplus areas to factories closing early. During the current season, 26 factories are expected to work in June as against 32 last year. 15 factories had also to work in July last year, while the number of such factories may not be more than three or four this year.

In case of Bihar, the total quantity of cane crushed up to 7th May was 32.5 lakh tons as against 31.58 lakh tons last year. Only a quantity of about 60,000 tons (or 1.2 per cent of the total) remained to be crushed on that date. The corresponding quantity last year was about 75,000 tons. Out of 28 factories working in Bihar, 25 have closed. Of the remaining three, two will complete crushing of all the cane available in their zones before the end of this month, although the third one may have to continue for one or two days in June. Last year due to the fall in recovery, a reduction of three annas per maund in the minimum price of

cane was allowed with effect from 8th May. It has not so far been considered necessary to allow any such reduction this year.

I fully appreciate the difficulty of the cultivators if their entire crop is not crushed by the end of April, when they have to get busy with the processing of the rabi crop. They have also to incur losses due to drainage of cane and pay higher charges for harvesting and transport. It is, however, only in bumper years that the need for prolonging the season arises. Fortunately, we have been having bumper crops right from 1954-55. While the average crushing season for U.P. during the triennium ending 1953-54 was 110 days, it was 129 days in 1954-55 and 143 days in 1955-56, and it is expected to be about 144 days during the current season.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act (Act XXXI of 1948), as amended by the National Cadet Corps (Amendment) Act (Act LVII of 1952), the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act (Act XXXI of 1948), as amended by the National Cadet Corps (Amendment) Act (Act LVII of 1952), the members

of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year."

The motion was adopted.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Science Act, 1956, the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the said Institute."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Science Act, 1956, the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the said Institute."

The motion was adopted.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the Railway Budget, for which three days have been allotted. I might state that according to the usual rule that we have followed, there will be a time limit of fifteen minutes for each individual Member and about twenty minutes to half-an-hour in the case of leaders of parties. That is the time-limit within which the discussion may be carried on.

Shri S. A. Dange (Bombay City—Central): In discussing the Railway Budget, I do not wish to go into too many details of the financial struc-