

want for relief purposes? Do they specify these things to other countries or do they allow them to send anything that they like most of which we may find to be quite useless for our purposes?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We have got a coordination committee both at the Centre and at Calcutta. ..

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Then, why are these things happening?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : ...At the Centre, it consists of various Ministries, and many voluntary organisations are associated with and represented on it. The same is the case at Calcutta. So, the situation is being reviewed, and the various Governments are being kept informed of whatever things are required. So, I do not know how the hon. Member is telling these things and apprehending mismanagement on the part of the Government.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Minister does not know that such reports have appeared.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Does he eat cod fish?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why do we not tell them in advance if we do not want certain things?

MR. SPEAKER : Let us leave aside the cod fish and pass on to the next question.

Fixation of Minimum Price of Sugarcane

*394. **SHRI D. K. PANDA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Sen Sugar Inquiry Commission were followed in fixing the minimum price of sugarcane to cover up the bulk line opportunity cost of cane cultivation last year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The required data in this regard was not available as no comprehensive study aimed at providing information on cost of production of sugarcane and its competing crops in various regions had been undertaken in the recent past. However, in fixing minimum price of sugarcane for 1969-70 Government took into account various factors including available information on cost of production, the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : With regard to my question whether the Sen Commission's recommendations had been implemented last year, that is, in 1970, the answer is quite suggestive of an evasive character, because the hon. Minister refers in his answer only to the years 1968 and 1969. Secondly, there is a frank admission to the effect that they have not implemented the recommendations. Is the hon. Minister aware that these recommendations are also incorporated in the Sugarcane Control Order in fixation of the minimum sugarcane price? Does the hon. Minister not think that the statutory direction in the Sugarcane Control Order is violated by the non-implementation of the recommendations?

SHRI SHER SINGH : I have not evaded. I have accepted that we have not implemented the recommendations of the Sen Commission *vide* answer to (a). I have given the reason. It is because we have not been able to make a comprehensive study which can provide us all the information necessary for knowing the cost of production of Sugarcane and other commodities. The Commission had suggested that we should take into account the opportunity cost; for that, we have to have a clear conception of the prices of other commodities also, the cost of production of sugarcane and also other commercial crops, that is if instead of sugarcane those crops were sown, what would they have yielded. Now we have entrusted this comprehensive study to agricultural universities and agricultural colleges; we have given the work to Universities of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Mysore, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Expert teams, faculties in this subject and Professors of these subjects are going into it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : When will the work be completed?

SHRI SHER SINGH : They have started work ; it will take some time.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : The hon. Minister has said that for 1969-70, the price was fixed based upon certain information available of cost of production and also return to the growers from alternative crops. Can he give us that information ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : I have said we could not make comprehensive study and these are rough figures.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : I wanted the information to which reference has been made in part (b) of the answer.

SHRI SHER SINGH : I require notice because it will be a long reply giving prices in various regions.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants the information on the basis of which minimum price was fixed for 1969-70,

SHRI SHER SINGH : As I said, so far we have not been able to make a comprehensive study. Now we are getting it done. The figures now available are rough figures on the basis of which we made some calculations and determined the price. We ourselves are not fully satisfied with the correctness of those figures. Hence this comprehensive study.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Cultivation of sugarcane has declined in the country in States like Mysore, Maharashtra and others. This is because there is no support price given to the farmer. The Millowners are pressurising Government to scuttle the idea of a support price. Will Government change this attitude and give a support price to the grower ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : The price given to the grower is not on the low side. Even according to the Sen Commission recommendation, in 1965-66, when the report was submitted, we should have given Rs. 4.96, whereas the money paid was Rs. 5.36 per quintal. According to the Agricultural Price Commission the price that was suggested...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : That is not my question ; he is not answering my question..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHER SINGH : I was saying that the Government has paid even more than the price which the Agricultural Price Commission or other Commissions suggested, we are supporting it.

SHRI SHIVAJI RAO S. DESHMUKH : One of the important recommendations of the Sen Commission is the principle of proportionality should be strictly adhered to. A minimum price is fixed for the national average sucrose content and then increases are related to the increase in the percentage. The application of that principle which is not applicable to other crops should not come in the way. What really stands in the way of accepting the recommendation of the Sen Commission is the reluctance of the Government. Will the hon. Minister kindly make it clear ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : We have been paying a minimum of 9.4 per cent and beyond that we have been paying a premium for higher percentage of sugar.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : The consumption of sugar has gone up ; there are six lakhs of tonnes of production. If the Government are not going to enhance the rate per tonne to Rs. 100, next year there will be shortage of sugar. Is the Government going to enhance the price to Rs. 100 per tonne ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : There is some truth in what the hon. Member has said. The consumption of sugar is increasing every year. Production also has been on the increase. This year of course there is some shortfall and we have given more licences and more factories will come into operation.

फसल और ढोर बीमा योजना

*395. श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या किसानों की फसलों और ढोरों का बीमा करने की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;