

unemployment, under-employment and all these things. May I know whether this Committee will have to start its work without any such assessment before them or whether this Committee will undertake such assessment and, if so, whether it is included in its terms of reference?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** In fact, it is clear from the recommendations that the Danetwala Committee tried to lay down certain criteria to determine unemployment. What we call unemployment is in a vague manner. He wanted to give a specific meaning to it and ascertain what is the total unemployment in the country, categorisation and all that. From the terms of this Committee, it is very clear that this is not the object of this Committee which has been set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bhagwati. The object is very clear. The Committee is expected to review the position. Of course, while reviewing the position and making recommendations, they will have to ascertain what is really the unemployment problem, what is the present state of affairs and how many are unemployed in the country because vaguely many estimates are given. But keeping in view the Dantewala Committees' recommendations, they will make their own assessment.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** This Committee, it appears, has been appointed to suggest ways and means of solving the problem of unemployment. May I know from the Government whether the Government is in a position to say what is the exact size of the problem of unemployment, how many people were unemployed in the country till the Committee was appointed and whether the Committee has been asked to suggest ways and means to find out employment for those who are unemployed, whether they are educated or uneducated.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** As I stated earlier, to give exact figures keeping in view certain criteria that have been placed before us by the Dantewala Committee is very difficult at the present juncture. There are various estimates. Some go to the length of even 20 millions and more. But the main purpose of the Committee is in regard to those who are job-seekers, whether they are educated or uneducated, whether they are in urban or

in rural areas, and they will have to recommend some measures by which this backlog of unemployment as well as growing unemployment could be lessened.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** I wanted to know whether the Government are in possession of the facts as to how many persons were unemployed at the time the Committee was appointed. That was my question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Unfortunately, he is not in a position to tell.

**SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE :** Will the hon. Minister kindly say whether the Marxist-Communist Party in West Bengal was responsible for more people being thrown out of employment ?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** I am sorry this question does not arise out of the present question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He is a new Member. I am sorry. I have to pass on to the next question. If we go on like this, we can do only two or three questions a day. We cannot finish the list.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Please allow us more supplementaries, Sir, because it was based on my resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Nobody doubts it.

#### Rise in price of Sugar

\*70. **SHRI S. L. SAKSENA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for sudden rise in the price of sugar without any ostensible reason for it, particularly when the price of sugarcane has not been increased at all ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) :** There has been no increase in the prices of levy sugar. Prices of free sale sugar had fallen in the months of January and February 1971, due to less offtake of sugar in these months but these prices have risen lightly in March 1971. A possible reason

for the rise may be the increased demand for Sugar due to the onset of the summer. However, sixty percent of sugar is distributed through controlled channels at fixed prices; and adequate stocks of sugar are available to correct the price trend of free sale sugar through the mechanism of monthly releases.

SHRI S. L. SAKSENA : Is it not a fact that the price of sugar in U.P. for the last two months is Rs. 150 per quintal in the retail market ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : I would like the hon. Member to appreciate the fact that even the prices which are higher are lower than the prices of levy sugar in Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. So, though there is a rise during the last two months, the free sugar prices were lower than the levy prices.

AN HON. MEMBER : Will the hon-Minister please tell us whether it is a fact...

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the way of calling my attention. I am not allowing. The hon. member who put the question can ask one more supplementary.

SHRI S. L. SAKSENA : What steps is the minister going to take to arrest the rise in prices ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : I have already indicated in my reply that the stock position of sugar in the country is so comfortable that even if there is any marginal increase in the price, the Government will see to it that more sugar is released in the market and prices are maintained at a fairly reasonable level.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that whenever the marriage season commences, especially in rural areas, sugar prices go up and secondly, whether it is a fact that whenever there is more demand, especially, during summer, the release of the quota of 60% free sugar is delayed or the proper quantum of sugar is not released ?

This is our experience in the rural side, especially, in Bihar that whenever the marriage season commences, the sugar prices go up.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : I can assure the hon. Member that during the

coming marriage season we will see that more quantities of sugar are released and even this was done last year. So, the hon. Member need not have any apprehension in this regard.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडे : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्राप का जो शूगर कोटे का डिब्ब्रीयूशन का पूलिंग सिस्टम है मध्य प्रदेश को उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ मिला कर या मध्य प्रदेश को महाराष्ट्र के साथ मिलाकर इस पूलिंग सिस्टम के कारण यह कठिनाई पैदा हो रही है और इसी कारण यह प्राइसेज बढ़ी हैं ।

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : There is no pooling system as such but there is one difficulty which I should explain to the hon. Member and the hon. house that the levy prices of sugar vary from zone to zone and for instance, they are the lowest in Maharashtra about Rs. 117.50 excluding excise duty and in Madhya Pradesh, the price is Rs. 157. That means a very high range, the difference being Rs. 40. That is because the cost of production is more. The cost structure is evolved by the Tariff commission and since the sugar prices depend upon the sugar content and the sugar recovery and the duration of the season, naturally there is a variation in the price structure of sugar from zone to zone.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : I am the President of a cooperative sugar factory. I want to plead the other way. Recently the Government has accepted the wage Board recommendations and that is having additional burdens on the sugar factories I want to know this : Is there any formula before the Government to see that the wage increase is reflected in the sugar price ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE : First of all, I would say, let the sugar factories accept the Wage Board Award and then we will see.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : What is the cost of production of sugar in the factories in the States of U. P., Maharashtra, Andhra and Assam respectively ?

SHRI PILLOO MODY : And Bangla Desh .

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is not as simple as that.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** He is ready to answer.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE :** The Tariff Commission report was laid on the Table of the House. The hon. Member has not cared to see it.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** You can say what it is.....

**SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** May I know whether the Minister is aware that there is difference of at least Rs. 1,000 per every tonne of sugar. The production cost comes to only Rs. 900 and the price fixed even by Government is above Rs. 1800 per tonne. Does the Government feel that this margin is necessary for the millowners ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE :** I do not know on what basis the hon. Member is drawing his conclusions. The present price structure of sugar is based on the cost of sugarcane, raw material, manufacturing cost, plus return of Rs. 10.50 per quintal. That is broadly the recommendation of the Tariff commission. So, in India the price of sugarcane, the raw material, relatively being higher, I don't think it is possible to do that.

**A.L.R. News Bulletin regarding Opening of Karokoram Highway**

\*71. **DR. KARNI SINGH :** Will the Minister INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Radio in its 8.15 A.M. news bulletin on 16th February, 1971 had said :

"The Karokoram Highway linking Gilgit and Hunza in North West Pakistan with China is being open to traffic today by the Pak Chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Hamid Khan"; and

(b) if so, the reason for conceding Gilgit to Pakistan and for describing

Tibet as China and not as Tibet region of China ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reference to Gilgit and Hunza as being part of North West Pakistan, instead of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, was a mistake. The official concerned has been cautioned to be careful in future. The new road links Gilgit and Hunza in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with Sinkian in China and not directly with Tibet.

**DR. KARNI SINGH :** Pakistan has illegally occupied Gilgit and ceded it to China. But this broadcast over All India Radio has virtually accepted their claim over Gilgit, and Pakistan's right to cede it to China, and we no longer accept the autonomy of Tibet. May I know whether any machinery exists in AIR to check and re-check the broadcasts to ensure that Indian territories are not lost by such broadcasts made through AIR?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** I have said, it is a very unfortunate mistake. The story was done in a hurry. Of course, already adequate arrangements exist there to ensure the factual correctness of the news broadcasts but unfortunately this was done in a hurry and this mistake was committed. As I have said, we have taken enough precautions to see that this sort of mistake does not occur again. We have decided to see that such stories should be checked by the Director and Joint Director—that means the evil of responsibility has been raised.

**DR. KARNI SINGH :** Are those personnel involved in this broadcast experienced personnel or were they new ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** They are experienced, no doubt. They are experienced persons. As I said, this is an unfortunate mistake. It was a mistake. As the story was done in a hurry this mistake was committed.