

of the fact that there are some fishing boats belonging to foreign countries plying just off the Saurashtra coast, and according to the FAO report, this coast is considered to be the richest area for marine products in the whole world? May I, therefore, know whether the Government of India is thinking of exploiting that area also?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** It is true that this area is one of the richest area from the point of view of fisheries. I am glad to mention that in Gujarat, fisheries are developing and coming up very well. We would like to help the Gujarat Government more and more so that the fishing activities can be expanded.

#### **Stock of Sugar and Financial Crisis in Sugar Mills**

\*845. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge stock of sugar have accumulated with the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the latest position and the withdrawals till the commencement of the next crushing season; and

(c) whether Government plan to offer some relief to the mills which are passing through a financial crisis?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
SHER SINGH) :** (a) and (b). No, Sir. The stock of sugar with sugar mills on the 15th June, 1971 was 27.9 lakh tonnes as against 30.6 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year. The withdrawals thereafter upto the 30th September, 1971 may be about 11 lakh tonnes. A further production of about 65,000 tonnes is also expected during this period.

(c) Restrictions on price and distribution of sugar have been removed with effect from the 25th May, 1971 and there should be no financial crisis now as the stock holding is lower than last year.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the arrears to the farmers have been paid by the sugar millowners and, if not, how much remains to be paid? Secondly, I would like to know whether after decontrol the prices of sugar have gone up in certain parts of the country.

**MR. SPEAKER :** In one single question, he is combining two questions. He is asking two questions

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** In reply to the earlier question, the arrears outstanding for the canegrowers in the whole country comes to about Rs 50 crores. In Uttar Pradesh, it is about Rs 19 crores. In the whole country it is Rs. 50 crores. As to the other question asked by my hon. friend, the prices have not gone up. If we compare them to the prices prevalent in free sale, from the 25th May, the prices have come down. This month itself we have released another 4.67 lakh tonnes of sugar and the prices have come down during these 6 or 7 days. *(Interruptions).*

**श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय :** सवा दो रुपये किलो बाजार में चीनी बिक रही है। पच्चीस तीस पैसे किलो इसके भाव बढ़ गए हैं। अफसर जो बना कर दे देते हैं उसको प्राप पढ़ देते हैं।

**श्री फूलचंद वर्मा :** सुपर बाजार में दो रुपये तीस पैसे मिल रही है। सरकार पता कर सकती है।

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** When there is no accumulation of stock, I want to know whether the arrears have been paid, if so, to what extent and what remains to be paid. He has repeated the same figure given some time back. He has not given the correct figures. This year, production of sugarcane was substantially more and the mills did not have the capacity to crush it in time. Are they going to relax the licensing policy so that more sugar mills may come up in the cooperative, joint and private sector ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** I will give the latest figures. Upto 31st May 1971, the balance of cane price due is Rs. 42,68,59,000. It has come down. About more licences for sugar factories, we have given 30 licences to the cooperative factories only recently and some factories are coming up. The total capacity will be 47 lakh tonnes.

**श्री गेंडा सिंह :** क्या यह सही है कि 42 करोड़ रुपये जो गन्ने के दाम अब तक बाकी बताए गए हैं उस में से 19 करोड़ रुपया केवल उत्तर प्रदेश में बाकी है ? क्या यह भी सही है कि यह 19 करोड़ रुपया कुछ ही फैक्ट्रीज के ऊपर बाकी है ? जिन फैक्ट्रीज पर किसानों के दाम बाकी हैं उन फैक्ट्रीज पर अगर गवर्नमेंट ड्यूज है तो उनको गिरफ्तार किया जा रहा है, उनकी कुर्की हो रही है और नीलामी हो रही है। क्या यह सही नहीं है ? यदि यह सही है तो क्या सरकार अपने ड्यूज को मुलतवी नहीं कर सकती है और मिल मालिकों के खिलाफ ठोस कार्रवाई नहीं कर सकती है ताकि किसानों के जो दाम बकाया हैं, उनकी अदागी जल्दी हो सके ?

**श्री शेर सिंह :** जो फिगर हैं उत्तर प्रदेश की उसकी मैं करेक्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ। कुछ और भी पेमेंट्स हो चुकी हैं। इस वक्त

यह राशि 15 करोड़ 99 लाख 94 हजार यह बताया जा चुका है कि छः मिलों के खिलाफ एक्शन लिया जा रहा है। नीलामी भी करवा रहे हैं इस वास्ते कि वे हमें पैसे दे सकें।

जहाँ तक सदस्य महोदय का प्रश्न है कि जहाँ किसानों के पैसे बकाया हैं और उसके बारे में वह छूट नहीं दे रही है और किसानों के ड्यूज उनको मिल नहीं रहे हैं, मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को उनका जो सुझाव है उसको भेज दूंगा।

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** According to the figures given by the hon. Minister the total arrears of sugarcane price dues is about Rs. 42 crores and some lakhs. Have the government taken any measures to seize the stocks of sugar and sell in the market and pay the dues of the farmers ? I would also like to know whether any sugar magnate has been arrested for non-payment of the dues.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** We are taking coercive measures. One of the measures is auction. It has already been decided to auction six mills.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I want to know whether they will seize the stocks and sell in the market.

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** Our difficulty is that most of these stocks have been pledged by the mill owners and taken money from the banks. So, we cannot just seize them and sell them.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Then what are the coercive measures that you have taken ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH :** The State Governments have been requested to realise these dues as arrears of land revenue and they are doing their best. In some cases,

they are auctioning the mills. We have been urging on the State Governments to take harsh and coercive steps.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY** : Taking into consideration the poor performance of the sugar industry in UP with regard to the recovery of arrears and payment, may I know whether the government will nationalise the entire industry ?

**SHRI SHER SINGH** : In reply to the calling attention motion the other day I have informed the house that we have received a memorandum from the U.P. Government. U.P. Government is taken some action and that will be known shortly.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE** : Sir, let us have a short discussion on this.

**MR. SPEAKER** : I will propose it to the Business Advisory Committee. I will look into it.

#### Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research at Washington

\*847. **SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been appointed as one of the Members of the new Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research set up in Washington;

(b) if so, the functions of this Group; and

(c) who are the other members of the Consultative Group ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE)** : (a) to (c). In April FAO had proposed to set up a Consultative Group in Washington on International Agriculture Research with the objective of attracting full financial support to strengthen such Research

in developing countries. India has been nominated as a Member of the Technical Advisory Committee which has been set up to support the Consultative Group. The Committee is located at FAO Headquarters in Rome and is composed of independent scientists from developed and developing countries in disciplines related to agriculture research development. As regards the Consultative Group some of the members are main aid donor countries of the FAO, Ford, Rockefeller and Canadian International Foundations and the Regional Development Banks.

**श्री रामशेखर प्रसाद सिंह** : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संस्था के सदस्य के रूप में भारत की ओर से कौन से कार्यक्रम बनाये गये हैं और क्या इस संस्था की कोई बैठक हुई है या नहीं ।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE** : I could not follow the question.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH** : While being a member of this group, what programme has been prepared by India, and has any meeting of this group taken place; if so, what is the progress ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE** : Actually, membership is not there. From a number of countries leading scientists are invited. It is a sort of a panel or study group. From India Dr. Swaminathan has been invited to join this panel. They look into the broad research activities going on in all countries and how to exchange experience with each other.

#### Supply of Rice to North Bengal to Feed the Evacuees from Bangla Desh

\*848. **SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO** :

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI** :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has urged the centre to rush at least