

## EXPORT OF TAPIOCA

\*1785. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether food scarcity is caused in Travancore-Cochin State by export of Tapioca and Tapioca Starch outside the State; and

(b) whether complaints have reached Government that the State Government are ignoring complaints from people against export of Tapioca?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Exports of raw tapioca from the State are banned since 1st June, 1952. The ban on conversion of tapioca into starch and other industrial products as also on the export of such products was lifted on 21st October 1952. Some scarcity was reported on the lifting of the ban but the State Government have since taken action to control the price and distribution of tapioca at fair price through ration shops.

(b) No.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know whether Government is aware that this export of tapioca has raised the price of tapioca per lb. and the poor people find it difficult to purchase tapioca which is their staple food?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Export of raw tapioca from Travancore (which is the poor man's food there) is banned. It is no longer being exported to other countries.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** I do not mean export outside India. I am referring to export to other Provinces.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Even before that, it is banned. Only the products prepared out of raw tapioca are being exported from Travancore.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** That is exactly what I want to know.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us not enter into an argument.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** The products of tapioca are exported so much so that all the tapioca is converted into starch and the people get no food.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is an argument.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Has Government taken any steps to prevent it or restrict it?

**Shri Namdhari:** What is tapioca?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Tapioca is a root crop which is used for human consumption.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member evidently wants to know why, when this is the poor man's food, tapioca is allowed to be converted into various other products and exported in different forms?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Other products like starch used to be manufactured out of this tapioca in this country from time immemorial but there was a ban on the manufacture of other products out of tapioca a year ago. The net result was that accumulation of tapioca in Travancore reached to such an extent that the prices went below the economic prices. It told on the production of tapioca itself. I can give you the figures. In 1951, the production was 13 lakhs tons, in 1952, it was 14 lakhs tons, in 1952-53, on account of the ban it went to 8 lakhs tons, a decrease of 6 lakhs tons because the agriculturists switch on to that crop which fetches them more money and the cultivation suffered because of the uneconomic price.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether it is not a fact that export has been permitted on the recommendations of a Committee presided over by Dr. P. J. Thomas, Ex-Economic Adviser to the Government of India, constituted to enquire into the desirability or otherwise of exporting tapioca starch and the Government acted on the recommendations of that Committee?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The hon. Member is correct. When the prices went below the economic price, there was so much pressure in the country that the Government had to appoint a Committee and that Tapioca Enquiry Committee went into the whole matter and on the recommendation of that Committee, the ban on export of products and manufactures of tapioca has now been lifted.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I further enquire whether the ban was removed when it was found that in several gardens where tapioca cultivation was raised, the gardeners were not even able to take the crop for lack of demand and prices were very low?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is true, Sir.

**Some Hon. Member—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members should not simultaneously start asking questions.

**Shri Punnoose:** Has it come to the notice of the Government that the State Government have been imposing and lifting the ban off and on without a regular policy in this matter?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Only once they had to lift it on the recommendations of the Tapioca Enquiry Committee.

**Shri Bansal:** This question about tapioca is being raised on the floor of the House again and again. Will the hon. Minister please place a sample of it on the Table of the House?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I will try to do it.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** May I know the price of tapioca products in comparison with other starch food products?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I am not able to give that. In January 1952 the price was Rs. 6 per maund whereas in December 1952 it was Rs. 4/- per maund. It has decreased, not increased.

**Shri Thanu Pillal:** May I know how much of this tapioca export is compensated by the rice imports for the poor man's food?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have given to Travancore-Cochin this year more than about 3 lakhs tons of rice. We have not given so much last year. This year we have given them more rice.

**Shri Punnoose:** Will the Government be pleased to go into this question and advise the Travancore-Cochin Government to follow a certain policy?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Punnoose:** Is there any proposal to follow a policy that will help the small producer and at the same time help the poor consumer?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We will look into the matter.

#### CIVIL AIR PILOTS

\*1786. **Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the examination of the Report submitted by M.A. Master Committee appointed to inquire into training of civil air pilots has since been concluded?

(b) Do Government propose to lay a copy of the Report on the Table of the House?

(c) What is the number of unemployed pilots up to 31st March, 1953 and what licence do they hold?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) As stated in the reply to Shri N. M. Lingam's unstarred question No. 153 on the 18th February 1953, it is proposed to publish the main recommendations of the Committee at an early date.

(c) As far as is known to the Civil Aviation Department, there are 120 pilots with current 'B' licences who are unemployed at present.

**Shri Punnoose:** I did not hear the answer to part (c) of the question.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As far as is known to the Civil Aviation Department, there are 120 pilots with current 'B' licences who are unemployed at present.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know when this Committee was appointed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It was appointed sometime last year. I cannot give a specific date.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know when this Report was submitted by the Committee?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** About January, Sir.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Has the Civil Aviation Department got any plan by which these unemployed pilots may be employed and are they in touch with the air lines to find out whether there are vacancies?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We try to help them as best as we can. On our part we have relaxed the qualifications and conditions for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Aerodrome Officers. The previous arrangement was that only those pilots who had 1000 hours of flying at their credit could be selected. Now pilots with 200 hours of flying and a pass degree in Intermediate Science can also be employed. As a result of that, some of them have been employed.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** What is the number of air pilots under training now besides those who are out of employment?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is not possible for me to give a firm answer.