

asked for any loan for the development of any port?

Shri Alagesan: I should think so; if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall supply the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question relates to Okha.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Arising out of the supplementary, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: Is the loan interest free?

Shri Alagesan: It is interest free for the first ten years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members must attend to what is being said. Next question.

WHEAT PRICES IN DELHI

*1256. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken in connection with the present price structure of wheat in Delhi?

(b) What are the alternative arrangements made for the supply of indigenous wheat falling short due to the inability of the Punjab Government to be able to fulfil their obligations on account of a weak crop forecast in that State?

(c) Will the supply have to revert once again to imported wheat?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes. It has been decided to maintain the present issue prices of wheat and atta in Delhi.

(b) and (c). Efforts are being made to move as much wheat from Punjab and P.E.F.S.U. to Delhi as possible. Stocks of imported wheat held by the Centre in Delhi will be released as and when necessary to supplement the availabilities of stocks of indigenous wheat.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the conditions which existed before the introduction of two prices in Delhi, one for controlled wheat and one for imported wheat, are still existing and how long they are likely to continue?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): So long as extra quantity—extra to the ration—is supplied, extra price will be charged.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In view of the fact that the Delhi Government has imposed a ban upon the hotels on serving rice, may I know whether their wheat quota is going to be increased?

Shri Kidwai: But, they want rice, not wheat.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या कारण है कि दिल्ली में देशी गेहूँ नहीं बल्कि बाहर का गेहूँ दिया जाता है जो कि ज्यादा दाम में उन को जा कर पड़ता है। ?

श्री किदवाई : बाहर का गेहूँ इस सबब से दिया जाता है चूंकि देशी गेहूँ दिल्ली पैदा नहीं करता ।

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In view of the fact that on account of failure or weak crop in the Punjab, they could not fulfil their promise for the supply of wheat to Delhi, may I know...

Shri Kidwai: That is not correct; Punjab has fulfilled its promise.

PURCHASE OF WHEAT BY PAKISTAN

*1253. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan purchased any quantity of wheat from India in the year 1952-53; and

(b) if so, how much and of what value?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). There was an agreement between us and Pakistan under which we exchanged 38,578 tons of wheat with Pakistan rice. The value of the wheat at the prevailing market prices abroad was Rs. 229 lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the price per maund at which this wheat was supplied to Pakistan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The quantity of rice has been given. I think a calculation can easily be made. It was at a much cheaper price than the imported rice.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the rice which Pakistan gave in exchange for wheat is of very inferior quality?

Shri Kidwai: The very rice Pakistan exchanged with Japan; they supplied 50,000 tons for 1 lakh tons of wheat.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how the price of rice imported from Pakistan will compare with that imported from Burma, China, etc.?

Shri Kidwai: The price is much lower than that for rice imported from Burma, Siam, China or from anywhere else in the world.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the wheat supplied to Pakistan was indigenous wheat or imported wheat?

Shri Kidwai: Ships on the way were diverted to Pakistan.

Shri Heda: What are the prospects of another deal this time?

Shri Kidwai: As Pakistan has decided to reduce the rates for Japan 1:2, we do not expect any further deal.

NON-PAYMENT OF SUGAR-CANE PRICES TO GROWERS IN BIHAR

*1259. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many cane growers of Bihar who supplied sugar canes to the various sugar mills of their area have not received payment of their canes from the mills last year?

(b) If so, have Government any idea about the amount of the said money lying with the sugar mills of Bihar?

(c) Have some steps been taken to ensure payments to the cane growers?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Out of the total amount of Rs. 10.19 crores due from mills on account of price of cane supplied in 1951-52 season, a sum of only Rs. 1.5 lakhs remained unpaid on 15-3-53. This small balance represents mainly sums due on account of disputed or lost cane receipts, and no further action to expedite payment is considered necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the cane growers did not get the necessary permits from the Mills even this year and as a result of which, thousands of acres of cane are still standing in the field and will not be harvested before the closing of this present season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): If the hon. Member gives me details, I will forward them to the Bihar Government for necessary action.

Shri Altekar: In what time do the farmers get the price after the cane is supplied?

Shri Kidwai: Sometimes the same day; ordinarily within a week. But, last year, they had to wait for months.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि सुगौली मिल के पार्टनर्स के बीच में जगड़ा होने के कारण और एक पार्टनर के पाकिस्तान में चले जाने के कारण पार साल और इस साल सुगरकेन प्रोडर्स को ऊब के दाम नहीं मिले ?

श्री किशोर्षी : आपकी इतला गालिबन सही होगी, मुझे मालूम नहीं ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Jaipal Singh:

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या जानरेबल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information. I have already called Mr. Jaipal Singh.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that the amount unpaid is to the tune of one and odd crores,...

Shri Kidwai: 1.5 lakhs.

Shri Jaipal Singh: ... may we know the reasons why Government have considered it not necessary to take any action?

Shri Kidwai: The reason is, the amount is admittedly due and is not being paid. There is some dispute and the State Governments are looking into it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether Government have received similar complaints from other States?

Shri Kidwai: What about?

Shri Nanadas: To the effect that...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. The question refers to non-payment in Bihar.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if, on account of late payment of the price of sugar cane in the last season and also during the current season...

Shri Kidwai: Not in the current season.

Shri Sarangadhar Das:...may I know if there is any apprehension that the area planted for the next crushing