

EXPORT OF SUGAR AND Gur

*34. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted export of Sugar and Gur;

(b) if so, to what extent and on what basis; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Export of 25,000 tons gur and 50,000 tons sugar has been permitted in the first instance.

(c) Export of gur has been allowed to check undue decline in gur prices and that of sugar to dispose of a part of the surplus production.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know what is the current season's stock of sugar and the estimated requirement, and whether the quantity fixed for export has any relation to the surplus production?

Shri Kidwai: It is expected that at the close of the season there will be 4 lakh tons of surplus sugar.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether there has been any marked improvement in the price of gur and sugar as a result of the export permitted by the Government?

Shri Kidwai: Sugar prices are fixed by the Government. The prices that were prevalent in the free market have come down some times lower than the fixed price. So far as gur is concerned, when it was announced that export would be permitted the prices rose but they have again begun falling because nobody is prepared in foreign countries to purchase our sugar.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether sugar or gur is not purchased in foreign markets?

Shri Kidwai: Both.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I know what quantity of sugar has been actually exported and to what countries?

Shri Kidwai: A very small quantity might have been exported by the merchants themselves but we are trying to negotiate now but find no buyers in other countries because sugar is available to them at cheaper rates from other surplus countries.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I know

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Mr. Speaker: Order order.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury:what countries particularly.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Chaudhury knows, as an old Member that any Member desiring to put questions or to speak is not permitted to do so unless called upon by the Speaker. So all hon. Members wishing to put questions will follow this convention. I am watchful and when several people rise, I have to make a random selection and call upon any one. If too many rise, I pass on to the next question.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if it is the policy of the Government of India to raise the price of sugar and gur?

Shri Kidwai: It is certainly the policy of the Government of India not to allow the prices of gur to be depressed too much because the cultivators will suffer. The sugar prices have been fixed in proportion to the sugarcane price at which the growers supply the cane. Therefore there is no question of Government desiring to raise the price. The price is based on the sugarcane price. The price of sugar can be lowered, and will be lowered perhaps, but it is only when the new cane is available and lower cane prices are fixed.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know to what extent the prices of these commodities have fallen as a result of the announcement of the export of sugar and gur?

Shri Kidwai: I have already answered that.

TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS (IMPORT)

*35. **Shri Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any complete telephone instruments were imported during the year 1951-52?

(b) Were any telephone parts imported during the above period and if so, of what value?

(c) What was the number of instruments produced by the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore and the number assembled in the Posts and Telegraphs Workshops?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Excepting a few specialised telephone instruments, complete telephones were not imported.

(b) Yes; worth Rs. 2,72,590.

(c) Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. 21,628, Posts and Telegraphs Workshops 7,038.