

## RISE IN PRICE OF SUGAR

\*2187. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the slowly and steadily rising price of sugar supplied to the consumers by the retail dealers on the ground that the wholesale price has been enhanced by the manufacturers;

(b) whether Government have been keeping in touch with this aspect of the sugar market specially in view of Government's announcement leaving the price of sugar to be fixed by the manufacturers; and

(c) what action has so far been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). Yes

(c) The Government have released two and half lakh tons sugar for free sale as against the normal quantity of 1 lakh tons per month. Movement of sugar from factories has been further stepped up. Government is keeping a close watch over the position. The Indian Sugar Mills Association has also been asked to take suitable steps to bring down sugar prices to a reasonable level.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know, Sir, in view of the releases of the additional sugar, the price of sugar has gone down?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I believe they have come down.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know if the Government is aware that they are still keeping up the same level of prices in the market?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** So far as my information goes, as soon as we warned the Trade Associations, there was a drop of 8 annas and we believe that with further releases, the prices will come down still further.

**Short Notice Questions and Answers****PROJECTS UNDER FIVE YEAR PLAN IN MADRAS STATE.**

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to State (a) Whether expenditure on irrigation and power projects under the Five Year Plan has been slowed down in the Madras State on account of the strain imposed upon its finances by scarcity conditions in the State;

(b) Whether the financial crisis in the State has forced the Madras Government to effect economies in all departments of Government including a 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of their officers;

(c) Whether the Government of India are sending the Minister for Commerce and Industry to make as on the spot enquiry regarding conditions in the State; and

(d) Whether the Government of India have indicated to the State Government the amount of aid that they could expect from the Centre?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have no precise information on this except in regard to the imposition of 10 per cent. cut of the salaries of the officers of the Madras State. The savings by this cut are not expected to be very appreciable.

(c) No, Sir. The Commerce Minister's visit is on his own initiative.

(d) The Central Government have indicated to the Madras Government as to other State Governments, the amount of loan assistance which they could expect in the course of the current year for the development schemes.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Madras at a recent press conference that if the Centre did not go to the aid of the State, the execution of the Five Year Plan in that State will have a complete break-down?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Sir, the Madras Chief Minister makes statements on numerous occasions. I do not really know to which particular statement the hon. member is referring.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Has the Government any definite idea of the extent of privation suffered by Madras in terms of the number of people and the area affected as a result of the failure of the monsoon successively for the last six years?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How does it arise? This question relates to projects under the Five Year Plan. We are now going into famine conditions.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** May I know, Sir, what aid Government propose to give to Madras Government in view of these circumstances?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I have already answered, Sir, that so far as development expenditure is concerned, as to other States, the amount has been indicated. We have also extended to them considerable ways and means assistance.

As regards any other form of assistance, as for instance, continuing works which were started, although they were not in the Plan, the matter is under consideration. The question has become complicated now on account of the prospective partition of the State into two separate States.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the finances of the Madras State have been jeopardised by reason of the fact that the Centre promised aid to meet the famine conditions and on that basis the Madras State has spent Rs. ten crores?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There is no truth whatsoever in this assertion. The Central Government never promised any assistance to the Madras State, of any extraordinary nature. The usual assistance which is extended to States is sharing half the cost of expenditure on gratuitous relief and advancing half the sum required for test relief works.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is it not a fact that, as a matter of fact, they have spent Rs. ten crores and the Madras Government offered to place their accounts at the disposal of the Auditor-General so that the accounts may be verified and found whether they had not actually spent Rs. ten crores on famine relief?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** It is not the concern of ours to dispute how much the Madras Government spent on famine relief. We are concerned only with the Central directive. The Centre is concerned only with certain portions of famine relief expenditure. It is also not correct to concentrate attention only on expenditure on famine relief. The Madras Government have spent a great deal of money on increased administrative expenditure and on schemes which were not in the Plan.

**Shri Thanu Pillai:** The hon. Minister observed that half grant and half loan will be given for famine relief. The Madras Government has spent Rs. ten crores on Rayalaseema famine. Has Government given Rs. five crores relief and Rs. five crores as loan?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The cost of Rs. ten crores does not represent the admissible expenditure.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** In view of the fact that the reserves of the Madras Government have been completely

wiped out, will Government consider the desirability of sanctioning an immediate grant, so that the Madras State might go ahead with its works and also the State Government may increase the tempo of expenditure on irrigation and power projects with a view to providing employment and relieve scarcity conditions?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** All these duties do not devolve on the Centre. As I said, the Centre is concerned with either sharing of the cost of gratuitous relief or advancing half the amount required for essential test works. As regards the other items, that is to say finding work for meeting unemployment generally, or making a grant to any State, these duties do not devolve on the Centre.

#### ACCIDENT TO AIR INDIA DAKOTA AT NEW DELHI

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India Dakota bound for Bombay crashed near Delhi on early Saturday morning, the 9th May, 1953;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the plane was not tested before it took the flight and the same plane had given some serious engine trouble only a few weeks back?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(c) No, Sir. The plane was inspected and certified as safe for the flight to Bombay by appropriately licensed engineers, at 0030 hours on the 9th May 1953. The same plane is reported to have returned to the base at Bombay on the 3rd May 1953 due to engine trouble, but the engine had subsequently been changed.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** Was the plane correctly loaded?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know how many times this plane had developed engine trouble: had it ever gone to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory for thorough check-up?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It was subjected to thorough check-up before it took off. In so far as development of engine trouble was concerned, I have indicated that in answer to part (c) of the question.