

Public Importance

sugar factories sugarcane is being wasted?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Almost all sugar factories in the country, especially those situated in gur producing areas, are experiencing shortage of sugarcane.

(b) No, Sir.

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

MR. TALBOT'S VISIT

Mr. Speaker: I had been receiving Calling Attention Notices for the last two or three days—I have been disallowing them—about Mr. Talbot's visit. If the hon. Minister is in a position to answer it, I might ask the Member concerned to put the same.

The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I am prepared to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Yashpal Singh may put it, because his is the first name.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Before him we have also given notices.

Mr. Speaker: I am collecting all the names that are there.

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): Sir, I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance, and request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported Autonomy Plan for Kashmir put forward by USA and U.K.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): My notice is different. My notice was on the report of the new proposal for Kashmir by Mr. Talbot, Assistant Secretary of State, United States, and our Government's reaction thereto.

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Mr. Speaker: Every notice I cannot read here. The wording may be different.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Mine is specifically on Mr. Talbot's proposals.

Mr. Speaker: Let this be disposed of.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is true that Mr. Talbot is coming here on the 6th of this month. But what has appeared in the papers is purely a Press report, if I might not use the word 'speculation'. However, India's position in regard to Kashmir has been made quite clear recently in the Security Council meeting by our representative and by our colleague Shri Chagla. We cannot deviate from that position even for a moment.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any questions need be put now. Let it remain as it is (*Interruptions*). They can be raised again. I do not think this would be the proper stage for any questions at this moment.

12.14 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Rice (Madras) Price Control Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Rice (Madras) Price Control (Second Amendment) Order, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 260, dated the 22nd February, 1964, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2435/64.*]

12.15 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
TWENTIETH REPORT

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): I beg to present the Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Appro-

[Shri Tyagi]

priation Accounts (Civil), 1961-62 and Audit Report (Civil), 1963 relating to Ministries of External Affairs, Food and Agriculture, Health, Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Labour and Employment and Law.

12.15½ hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that under rule (19) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I have nominated Shri T. H. Sonavane to the Panel of Chairmen in addition to the existing members of the panel.

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DELHI STATE CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE STORES' DEALINGS IN GUR

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I want to make a statement on the Delhi State Central Co-operative Stores and its dealings in gur.

On 18th November, 1963 a permit was issued by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies of the Delhi Administration in favour of Delhi State Central Co-operative Stores Limited, authorising them to import 300 tons of gur from Uttar Pradesh under the Gur Movement Control Order, 1963. Prior to that a licence was issued in favour of the Stores to deal in gur on the 16th November, 1963 by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies under the Delhi Khandsari and Gur Dealers' Licensing Order, 1963. The licence specified only one place of business, namely, 8/4, D.B. Gupta Road Delhi. On 29th November, 1963, the Secretary of the Society, Miss Sulhan, informed the Director of Food and Civil Supplies verbally and then in writing that the gur was being stored in 5 depots, namely, Medaganj, Phuta Road, Nangloi Regal Buildings and Jagannath Market. It is stated that the Director had informed the Secretary that no licence was required for storage and sale of less than 50 quintals at any

one place. It is also stated that the Director had verbally approved of the storage at these five places. But the Directorate did not issue any licence for effecting sales at the above 5 depots or at three other places where they were subsequently stored. It seems that in three places out of the above five places, Medaganj, Phuta Road and Nangloi, and at Najafgarh also, gur was not only stored exceeding 50 quintals but was also sold exceeding 50 quintals involving a breach of clause (3) of the Delhi Khandsari & Gur Dealers' Licensing Order punishable under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act. The Directorate only approved of storage in these unlicensed premises and not sale.

With regard to the sale of the gur thus imported it seems the sale took place prior to the 5th December, 1963 at first at rates varying from Rs. 80 to Rs. 85 per quintal and later on at rates varying between Rs. 66 and Rs. 69 per quintal for wholesale and Rs. 69 and Rs. 71 for retail sale. At that time no order was issued by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies fixing the price for the sale of the gur in question.

On the 6th December, 1963 the Director had fixed the price of the gur in question as follows:—

Quality of gur	Quantity in quintals	Wholesale rate per quintal
1. Gur Pansera	726.30	66.00
2. Gur Chakoo	241.19	68.00
3. Gur Khurpa	649.49	69.00
4. Gur Ladoo	198.25	69.00

After the aforesaid fixation of price, the Stores do not appear to have sold any gur at prices exceeding the prices fixed as above.

In these circumstances, the Delhi Administration took the opinion of the Secretary, Ministry of Law, who opined that there was a case for prosecution against the persons responsible for sale of the gur from