

श्री जयु लिये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें कहीं कहीं कहा है कि दोनों मंत्रालयों से सम्बन्ध रहना चाहिये। मैंने कई वक्ता यह बातें उठाया है। व्यापार मंत्रालय का कार्य क्षेत्र इतना बड़ा दिया है कि इस में बिपक्ष होती है। हम चाय के बारे में पूछते हैं तो कह देते हैं कि उस का सम्बन्ध व्यापार मंत्रालय से है। उनको भी यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिये।

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the question of prices can be referred to the Commerce Ministry. I do not know. You will have to evolve some method.

श्री जयु लिये : जब कभी ऐसा होता है कि दोनों मंत्रालयों से सम्बन्ध रहता है तो दोनों को यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिये। चाय की कोई नीति नहीं है—कई बेटी के मातहत नहीं आती है ?

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know from the hon. Minister, from the data available, whether he can give us an idea as to what is going to be the fall in the production of sugar in the current year?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: With due respect to the hon. lady Member, this supplementary does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Speaker: She may put a separate question.

Shri Kandappan: In every State, the procurement price of foodgrains has been fixed, whereas the central Government has not taken any steps to regulate the price of inputs that the peasants have got to incur, particularly, with regard to fertilisers, the cost of labour and electricity charges and other things. I would like to know whether the Government would take steps to see that the cost of inputs is not allowed to rise manifold when they are fixing the ceiling price for the foodgrains and other cash crops?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The Agricultural Prices Commission is an ex-

pert body and they necessarily take into consideration all these factors such as the rise in the cost of inputs when recommending either the maximum price or the procurement price.

Shri Kandappan: Sir, I crave your indulgence. The foodgrain prices have been fixed long ago. After fixing the prices, there is evidence that the cost of inputs has been rising two-fold, three fold and sometimes manyfold in some items. He has not given any answer to this aspect of the question; they have not at all considered this.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The overall effects of increase in the cost of cultivation is taken into consideration. Recently, may I submit for the information of the hon. Member that we have constituted a Standing Committee under the chairmanship of...

Shri Kandappan: I do not want any committee. What are the concrete steps taken?

Mr. Speaker: Let him hear the hon. Minister.

Shri Kandappan: Can he not give a direct answer? Does he mean to say that the price of inputs has not risen?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Just as we have the index for the cost of living, on the basis of which we can readily assess what has been the increase in the standard of living, and the increase in the prices etc., similarly, in regard to the cost of cultivation, we are trying to construct indices on the cost of cultivation. I think when the data are available, perhaps it will be possible to make recommendations in regard to agricultural prices on the basis of those data.

Cotton Development Scheme

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*603. Shrimati Susuola Gopalan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri K. Ramani:
Shri Parthasarathy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the cotton development scheme of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the scheme; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The scheme is under consideration of the Government of India.

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan: The mill-owners are trying to enter the field of production of cotton in the name of joint stock farming. In the interest of the small cultivators, will the Government consider this proposal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): The hon. lady Member's apprehensions that joint stock companies are likely to enter cotton production are not justified. Government has no intention of allowing joint stock companies to enter cotton production as such. There is a scheme presented by the cotton federation that 1,50,000 acres may be covered by plant protection measures. They also submitted a scheme in regard to the development of Sea Island cotton. The matter has not been finally decided and we have suggested that if the cotton federation wants to take plant protection measures their proposal would be considered.

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan: Is it a fact that in the report of the study group on the distribution of land for cotton production under the Fourth Plan, there is mention of the suggestion by the United States delegation for diverting land under cotton cultivation to food production and, if so, what is the recommendation of the committee? Will the Government take into consideration that report before taking a final decision on that subject?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Now and then suggestions are made that the area under cotton should be diverted to food crops. We have a major textile industry which depends upon cotton and we cannot accept the position whereby we shall be entirely dependent upon import of cotton. All these suggestions made by various parties are being examined, but we think it would be better to develop our own cotton in our own country, and the emphasis would be not on the expansion of acreage but on raising productivity per acre.

श्री अण्णासाहिब शिंदे : माननीय मंत्री जी क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत में कितनी भूमि के अन्दर यह काटन की पैदावार होती है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: It is well known; about 20 million acres under cotton.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: In view of what has been stated by the Page Commission sent by the United States and in view of the recommendations of Dr. Sen Committee, Dr. Sen who is additional secretary in the planning commission—in his report that you must not cultivate cotton, what is the attitude of the Government? Is it true that Dr. Sen Committee had recommended that you need not grow more cotton? Are you going to publish it and, if so, when?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Whatever we decide, we shall decide in the interest of our country. If my information is correct, Dr. Sen has not suggested that cotton acreage should be diverted towards food.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: When will you publish his report? Would you publish it?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I would have to consider that.

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : कृपया मंत्री जी ने बताया कि हमारे देश में ऊई की प्रति

एकड़ पैदावार कम है, ये जानना चाहता हूँ कि निम्न जैके देशों की तुलना में हमारे देश में ऊई की पैदावार कम है इसको जानते हुए भी सरकारने प्रति एकड़ ऊई की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए क्या योजना बनायी है और उन के ऊपर क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: My information is that at the beginning of the first five-year plan, the per acre yield of cotton was about 85 lbs. Now it is about 104, which means there has been about 25 per cent increase in the per-acre yield. The main difficulty in India is that 85 per cent of our cotton is dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon. Only a very small percentage is under irrigated area. In Punjab where large areas are under irrigation, the per acre yield is much higher.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether suggestions have come from the cotton growers' cooperative societies of Maharashtra and Gujarat about development schemes and if so, what are they?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: To my knowledge, I do not know if any suggestions have been received. But if any cooperative body will be pleased to send in suggestions, they would be examined with due care.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: Has the Government any integrated plan for improving the production of cotton—not only the quantity but the quality—in this country, so that we may not depend on outside countries for importing cotton? May I know to what extent Government has proceeded in the matter and how far they have succeeded?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have an all-India coordinated cotton research project. We have consulted the scientists. We have formed a committee of scientists to go into this problem. They have to develop the genetic material and at the same time take other steps like making bet-

ter seeds available, having a better organisation to look after it, and taking better plant protection measures. All these coordinated steps are being taken to develop cotton production in the country.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया था कि खेतिहर पैदावार की चीजों के दाम निश्चित करने पर विचार हो रहा है तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि विचार करने समय क्या इन बातों पर भी ध्यान दिया जायेगा ?

1. कि खाद्यान्न और दूसरी नकदी फसलों के दामों में एक रिफ्लेक्ट रहे ?

2. खेतिहर पैदावार और कारखाने की चीजों के दामों में संतुलन रहे ?

3. फसल पर अंतर फसल के बाद दो तीन महीने के बाद जो भारी दामों में बढ़ाव उतार रहते हैं वह न हों ?

क्या इन पर भी विचार करेंगे ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: He is perhaps referring to Question 802, which has been already covered. This is about the cotton developments schemes of the Cotton Mills Federation.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether some of the countries exporting cotton to India have suggested that there should be a decrease in the acreage under cotton production in this country and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India to this?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have already said that we have no intention to divert our cotton acreage, because we have a big textile industry in this country.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I want a categorical answer to the question whether any country exporting cotton to India has made that suggestion.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: There were some reports in the US press to that

effect. But as I said, we are not going to be guided in this regard by any other country; we will be guided by our own national interest.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो कपास की बेती है बारिश इस को नुकसान करती है। बारिश जितना कम होगी उतनी कपास की क्वालिटी अच्छी होगी और क्वालिटी भी अच्छी होगी। लेकिन ड्राउट की कंडीशन में वह बिल्कुल नहीं होगी। इसीलिये पूरी दुनिया में जहां सिंचाई का अच्छा इंतजाम है और बारिश कम होती है वहीं कपास तादाद में भी ज्यादा होती है और क्वालिटी में भी ज्यादा अच्छी होती है जैसे मिश्र में नाइल नदी के इलाके में, तो मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब बातों को समझते हुए जैसे राजस्थान ८, पंजाब ६, हरयाणा ६, हमारे देश का उत्तर पश्चिम का इलाका है जहां बारिश कम होती है वहां पर काटन की वैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई सिंचाई की विशेष व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, some of the areas in Punjab are coming up very well in regard to cotton development. Also, perhaps, areas in Rajasthan coming under the Rajasthan Canal may possibly be potential areas where cotton development may come up on very good lines.

Shri A. V. Patil: May I know whether it is a fact that there is a sharp decline in the total acreage of cotton growing in Maharashtra; if so, what are the reasons?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Final figures of estimates of acreages are not available with us. There are indications that there has been some reduction, but unless final estimates are available I do not think it will be proper to draw any conclusions.

श्री इरुज चन्द कश्यप : क्या सरकार ने इस बात की जांच की है कि हमारे देश में जो कई पैदा की जाती है उन की मात्रा

कितनी और जिन देशों से कई हम मंगाते हैं उनकी उत्पादन मात्रा क्या है और दोनों में क्या अंतर है

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have no figures.

Shri R. K. Amin: In view of the fact that our cotton output is falling short of our target, is there any plan with the Government to fix the minimum price but not the maximum price for cotton in order to encourage the growth of cotton production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Sir, this question has already been covered.

Foodgrains Quota of States

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*604. Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:

Shri Sharda Nand:

Shri Hanjit Singh:

Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:

Dr. Ranen Sen:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have recently decided to impose heavy cuts in the foodgrains quota of the States in view of the apprehension that the imports of foodgrains from abroad are likely to go down; and

(b) if so, the quantum of the cut proposed to be imposed, State-wise and the basis for effecting the cut in the case of each State?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) and (b). The arrivals of imported foodgrains will be affected during the current month due to the closure of the Suez Canal. The State Governments have been advised of the quantities that are likely to be moved during the month against their current month's quota. They have also been told that in case the availability increases later in the month, further review will be made. Movements to different States are generally arranged from ports considered most suitable for supply to each State.