

(b) if so, what are the main terms of the agreement; and

(c) how much salt is likely to be exported to that country under the agreement annually?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The State Trading Corporation has recently concluded an agreement for sale of salt to Japan.

(b) and (c). About 250,000 metric tons of salt per year will be exported to Japan under this agreement. The quality will be coarse marine salt with 94 to 95% NaCl standard.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether it is a fact that Japan is also importing salt from Pakistan and, if so, what is the price that they are paying for it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They want to buy some quantity from us. They buy from both the countries.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether it is a long-term agreement or a short one?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a long-term agreement.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : जो कीमत जापान पाकिस्तान सरकार को नमक की दे रहा है और जो वह भारत सरकार को दे रहा है, इन दोनों कीमतों में कितना अन्तर है और भारत सरकार का नमक कुछ लाभ में बिक रहा है या घाटे में बिक रहा है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ज्यादातर बहुत थोड़ा हम से ही खरीदते हैं क्योंकि वहाँ पर राक साल्ट की इतनी मांग नहीं है जितनी मैरीन साल्ट की है। इसलिए हमारा एग्जपोर्ट ही बड़ा है।

श्री का० रा० गुप्त : जो आप का नमक है यह सांभर नमक है या कोस्टल नमक है ? और क्या

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मैरीन साल्ट है, सांभर का नमक वे नहीं खाते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर। जब एक मैम्बर साहब सवाल कर लें तो फिर अपनी जगह पर बैठ जायें ताकि वजीर साहब खड़े हो कर जवाब दे सकें। वे अपनी जगह पर खड़े न रहें।

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much of this salt is meant for edible purposes and how much for industrial purposes?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is mostly edible. We are told that they consume it also for industrial purposes by further refining it.

Shri Oza: In view of the fact that salt is required for industrial purposes also, may I know whether the Government will examine the possibility of exporting the inland salt from Kandla to Japan?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Kandla is included because Kandla is having marine salt. It is only the Kharagoda and Sambhar salts which are not saleable there; because, as the hon. Member himself knows, the price of these salts is very much higher than the marine salt. We are trying to increase the internal production and double up our export to Japan by further approaches to the Japanese Government and the Japanese importers.

Shri Raghunath Singh: How does the internal price compare with the price elsewhere?

Shri Manubhai Shah: These two are quite different, because the internal price has not much relation. Also, I would not like to disclose the price at which we promote this export to Japan.

• Boosting up of Exports

*245. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken measures to enlist the cooperation of international agencies and institutions to boost exports;

(b) if so, what steps have taken in that direction; and

(c) with what results?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Both GATT and ECAFE, of which India is a member, have passed resolutions with a view to securing wider access for products of less developed countries in the markets of the industrialised countries. The tariff negotiations held under the auspices of GATT have also been helpful.

Steps have been taken to bring to the notice of the United Nations and its specialised agencies items available for export from India and likely to be used in connection with their various programmes.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether these measures are being taken through the State Trading Corporation and, if so, whether there is any objection for the State Trading Corporation taking up the export trade and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The State Trading Corporation is a vital limb for promoting foreign trade, but it is not an exclusive sort of organisation. There is a very large quantity of trade to be dealt with. As a matter of fact, 95 per cent. of the trade is outside the STC. So, every agency is being permitted to enter into international trade.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Since a department of International Trade has now been established, may I know whether there is any agency other than the State Trading Corporation to boost up our exports?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The original question is quite different: what type of international trade agencies we are taking advantage of in order to promote foreign trade. As the House is aware, the GATT and the ECAFE are the two principal international bodies for this purpose. As far as the pro-

motion of foreign trade is concerned, it is being done through diverse agencies including the STC.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of Britain's entry into the ECM, may I know if it is a fact that it will more specifically affect our export of cotton textiles and, if so, what steps the Government are taking in that direction and whether these two international agencies would explore markets for our cotton textiles so that the export may be promoted?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I had the privilege to clarify it several times, we are most concerned with the entry of the United Kingdom into the ECM, and we have made commodity-wise studies. We have placed our views and we are continuously placing our views before the United Kingdom as well as before the other six countries, in the talks, as to what adverse and other effects the entry of UK in the European Common Market is going to cause to our foreign trade. So also, we are making it known in specific terms what will be the type of association terms and conditions that we would like to have with the U.K. and with the six countries in case the European Common Market agreement is finalised with the United Kingdom.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Are any complaints being received, as they were some years ago, from certain foreign importers regarding export of shoddy goods from some quarters in India, which differ in quality from samples submitted earlier?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Shoddy trading is of course a bad thing and we do not support it at all. It is not that India's trade consists only of that. Small quantities of sub-standard goods sometimes go out and we have been concerned about it. I can assure the House that maintenance of standard and quality control are going to be insisted upon in future to cover as many commodities as possible throughout the length and breadth of the country.