

convened in Darjeeling last October has held that it would be more appropriate for the State Governments themselves to enact the necessary legislation to set up the State Housing Boards, which could construct and manage housing estates besides finance other housing activities in the States. This recommendation has been sent to the State Governments for necessary action.

Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Ltd.

*696. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable difficulties involving increasing cost were experienced during 1957-58 by the Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Ltd., in the procurement of castings in the absence of a foundry of its own; and

(b) what efforts have been made to set up a casting foundry for the Company?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project for setting up a foundry at the Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Ltd., has been included in the Second Five Year Plan. Action is being taken for the early implementation of this project

हिमाचल प्रदेश में खानों से नमक निकालना

६९७. श्री पद्म देव : क्या बाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री १३ मार्च, १९५८ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ६३५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मर्हती की तबे नमक की खानों से विज्ञानिक तरीके से नमक निकालने की योजना के सम्बन्ध में हम बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : दो चाफ्टें बनाने तथा पहली चाफ्ट खोदने के लिये हैडक्वार्टर स्थापित करने के सभी प्रारम्भिक काम पूरे किये जा चुके हैं। एक

चाफ्ट १९ फीट की गहराई तक बनायी जा चुकी है। जहाँ दूसरी चाफ्ट खोदी जाएगी, उस जगह तक जाने के लिये सड़क बनकर तैयार हो गयी है, चाफ्टें बनने के स्थान पर भी मशीनें तथा उपकरण लगाये जाएँगे, उनका एक भाग बनाकर ठेकेदार ने पूरा कर लिया है।

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

*698. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the establishment of a hospital under Employees' State Insurance Corporation at Kanpur;

(b) if so, whether it has been finalised; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is expected to be ready during 1959.

Import of X-ray Films

*699. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the restrictions placed on the import of X-ray films such articles have become scarce;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public are not getting such articles in the market even at higher prices;

(c) the quantity of such material allowed for imports during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far;

(d) whether the majority of such imports are made on Government account; and