

सेठ बचल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या आगरे के बारे में भी कोई विचार किया गया है, कि वहाँ कौन से आफिस जा सकते हैं ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is, Sir, a lot of congestion, if I know correctly, in Agra but if there is available accommodation, it cannot be ruled out.

ARREARS OF RENT FOR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

*687. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a considerable amount of rent for Government residential quarters remains in arrears and if so, what is the amount of the same year-wise from 1947 up to date?

(b) What measures are being adopted to realize this rent?

(c) Have any dues been written off as unrealizable?

(d) What is the amount of such written-off debts?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) While there are arrears, they cannot be said to be considerable in relation to the total demand. A statement showing the amount of arrears outstanding as on 31.10.52 in respect of the years 1947-48 to 1951-52 relating to the civil residential pool of accommodation for Central Government servants in Delhi, Simla, Bombay and Calcutta is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 17].

The total arrears outstanding are only about 3.2 per cent. of the total demand for the period.

(b) Every item of arrears is continuously being followed up with a view to recovering the amounts outstanding from the individuals concerned working in various offices. There is a special Accounts Officer exclusively entrusted with this job in the Estate Office.

(c) and (d). Yes, for the years 1947-48 to 1951-52 an amount of about Rs. 34,000 has been written off. Much of this, however, is only a technical and accounting write off, as I understand that the rents of certain units were revised but could not be recovered retrospectively.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: From which class of persons mostly this amount is recoverable?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I think all Government employees belong to one class.

AUCTION OF ASSAM TEA

*688. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of Assam tea was auctioned in Calcutta in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 both for internal and external consumption?

(b) Is it a fact that, on account of the recent re-grouping of North Eastern Railway, Assam tea can be carried to Kandalla Port via, Katihar, Kanpur, Agra and Ahmedabad as this route consists of metre gauge Railways?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a)—

Assam tea auction in Calcutta

	1950-51	1951-52
	Qty. in Chests	Qty. in Chests
Export	1,087,868	1,149,055
Internal	91,098	34,044

(b) Yes.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is the Government aware of the fact that on account of the sale of Assam tea at Calcutta, the Government of Assam is losing a large sum of money in the shape of sales tax?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, because the rule is that no sales tax be levied on exported tea and tea sent out; the State therefore is losing.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it under the contemplation of Government to have one tea auction house in Gauhati in place of Calcutta?

Shri Karmarkar: I require notice.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it not a fact that the transport cost from Assam to Kandalla Port via Katihar is far less than through Calcutta?

Shri Karmarkar: Likely, because the distance is 1778 miles.

SYSTEM OF WEIGHT FOR IRON AND STEEL

*689. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have adopted British Avoirdupois weight as the standard system of weight for iron and steel?

(b) Is it also a fact that iron and steel are sold in Assam in Indian weight of maunds and seers?

(c) Why is this deviation in the case of Assam?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Because the general consumers of steel in that State are accustomed more to the Indian weights.

SALT (PRODUCTION AND EXPORT)

*690. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement showing the total production and export of salt from India for the last six months?

(b) How much has India earned out of this export during the above period?

(c) Are there prospects of our salt export expanding in the near future and if so, to which countries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement showing the desired information pertaining to the period April-September 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 18].

(b) About Rs. 45 lakhs.

(c) Yes, provided quality is improved. Japan offers the best prospects. Other markets also are being explored.

Shri Nanadas: According to the statement, we have exported nearly 37 lakh maunds to Japan during the last six months. May I know from which salt producing centres this quantity has been exported to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mostly from the West Coast: Saurashtra, Kutch and a small quantity from Tuticorin.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what steps Government have taken to improve the quality of salt produced in Bombay and Madras States so as to make it fit for export to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have laid down that the quality of salt should be improved from year to year. During this year, the percentage of sodium chloride is fixed at 93 per cent. and for the next year at 94 per cent. Every possible facility is given to the salt industry to improve the quality of salt in all areas.

Shri Nanadas: May I know how the quality and standard of our salt compares with that of Aden salt,

and how the prices of our salt compare with those of Aden salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I cannot give the information offhand here.

Shri Nanadas: From the statement it is evident that we have not exported any salt to East Bengal from July onwards. What are the reasons? Is there any 'ban on our salt export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no ban now, since the last quarter of 1951. But, previous to that, since salt was not included in the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement, there was imposition of restrictions by both the Governments. But, even after the ban was removed and free licensing allowed, no improvement in the export of salt to Pakistan has been noticeable.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: Is the Government satisfied that the requirements of our country are fully met at reasonable prices before salt is exported to Japan and other countries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Raghavaiah wanted to put a question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I just wanted to...

Mr. Speaker: He need not put if he does not want. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I wanted to.....

Mr. Speaker: Now, it is over. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: If you do not want to give me any chance.....

COTTON TEXTILES FUND COMMITTEE

*691. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is a body called the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee in existence?

(b) If so, what is its purpose, who are its members and for how long has it been working?

(c) Is it an official or non-official body?

(d) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a report on the working of the body since its inception?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19].