

(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].