

**Shri Gohain:** May I know whether a small aeroplane will be supplied to the administration?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes; I do not know if it can be supplied to the Agency. We are trying to find out what air communication we can establish there at proper places, possibly including helicopters.

**Shri Nanadas:** Arising out of the answer, may I know whether there is any landlordism in that area, and if there is no landlordism whether the people are free to get land?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am afraid I could not answer that question with any certainty. I doubt very much if there is anything in the nature of landlordism there.

**Mr. Speaker:** I doubt whether this arises out of the question. Next question.

#### SURVEY OF BURIDIHING RIVER VALLEY

\*1525. **Shri Gohain:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to make a survey-contour or otherwise and collect hydrological and other data, of the Buridihing river in the State of Assam for alleviating the sufferings of the people of the Buridihing valley from the effects of floods; and

(b) if so, when the survey will be completed and action taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Gohain:** May I know whether the Government propose to give any interim relief to the people in the valley of the Buridihing river?

**Shri Hathi:** The State Government are taking measures to give interim relief.

#### SALT

\*1526. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of importing rock salt from Pakistan; and

(b) the total amount of salt required for the country?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) No.

(b) The total estimated requirements of salt during the year 1953 are 725 lakh maunds.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know the quantity that is going to be imported?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** No, Sir. There is no question of importing any salt because India has already reached the stage of self-sufficiency in salt as far back as 1951. The question of importing any salt does not arise.

#### COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

\*1527. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the countries where India has maintained commercial representatives?

(b) What are the functions of these representatives?

(c) What is the total volume of transactions handled by these representatives?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 5.]

(b) The main functions of the Indian Trade Representatives abroad are to promote our trade particularly on the export side and generally to look after all our trade interests in the countries under their jurisdiction and also to keep the Headquarters posted with latest information on economic and commercial matters in those countries through periodical reports.

(c) As trade is not generally handled by our Trade Representatives, it is not possible to give any precise information in this regard.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether any uniform procedure has been drawn up regarding the transactions to be conducted by these trade representatives abroad?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, Sir. The type of work that they have to do, the type of report that they have to send are contained in a circular that is issued to all trade representatives abroad and the practice generally is uniform subject to such variations as are necessary because of local conditions existing in that particular area.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether these representatives are subordinate to the Embassies