

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no precise knowledge of this Orissa scheme though I know that there was some such scheme. I am not able to give any information about it.

SALT (IMPORT)

*1530. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the quantity of salt imported from West Pakistan in 1952?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): No salt was imported from West Pakistan in 1952.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if there are any rock salt mines in India, and if they are being worked to their full capacity?

Shri R. G. Dubey: As far as my knowledge goes, it is in Mandi that there is probability of developing this particular variety, and the Government are trying to develop this.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: What was output of rock salt in Mandi last year?

Shri R. G. Dubey: There has been no output so far, but Government are contemplating certain schemes to develop this source.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, when the scheme will come to fruition so far as Mandi is concerned?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Just now I am not in a position to say.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that for certain purposes like medicinal preparations rock salt alone can be used, and may I know what is the annual requirement of rock salt?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I require notice for this question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know from which countries we get rock salt now for such exclusive purposes?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far we have not got, but in the case of Kashmir we made an exception for certain political reasons, and Kashmir was allowed to import a certain quantity of rock salt.

INDIAN TEA LICENSING COMMITTEE

*1531. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what funds and other properties are owned by and vested in the Indian Tea Licensing Committee as on the 31st March, 1953?

(b) What are their liabilities, if any, as on the 31st March, 1953?

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

(a) The funds of the Committee on the 31st March 1953 amounted to Rs. 2,47,822/7/2. The value of other properties, consisting mainly of furniture and fixtures, as on the date, is estimated at Rs. 20,000. In addition, licence fees amounting to Rs. 9,642 were due from tea estates on that date.

(b) The liabilities of the Committee on the date amounted to Rs. 29,000.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will this Committee remain after the Tea Board has been constituted?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, if the House approves of the Tea Bill which is now before the House, this Tea Licensing Committee would be dissolved and the Tea Board will take over its functions.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*1532. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government will participate in the Sixth International Film Festival to be held near about the 3rd April, 1953 in Cannes?

(b) Have Government responded to the invitation of the French Government to participate in the Festival?

(c) How many kinds of films will be sent for the Festival and who will represent Government?

(d) What expenditure have Government to bear on this account?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Long films and short films have been entered. Our Ambassador in France is representing the Government of India.

(d) Cost of prints and packing and forwarding charges in respect of the films produced by the Films Division; these amount to about Rs. 1,000.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know, Sir, how many films were sent?

Shri Buragohain: Four films have been sent for this particular festival.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know, Sir, whether India participated in any film festival and any reward was received by India?

Shri Buragohain: India has been participating in the International Film Festivals since 1948, and we have been earning awards in every year since 1949.