

## SALT

\*671. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are contemplating imposition of certain restrictions on unlicensed salt production; and

(b) whether Government propose to make the rate of cess on salt uniform for the whole of the country?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) and (b). Both the questions are under the consideration of the Government of India at present.

NEUTRAL NATIONS REPATRIATION  
COMMISSION

\*675. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether our newspapers have got Indian nationals accredited as their direct correspondents with the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea?

(b) If so, how many are they?

(c) How did Indian newspapers publish the photograph and caption given by the American "Stars and Stripes"?

(d) Has any enquiry been made in the matter?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) and (b). Two Indian newspapers and one Indian news agency have sent Indian nationals as their correspondents to Korea. No correspondents are accredited to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission as such. They are accredited either to the U.N. Command or to the Korean Peoples' Army and Chinese People's Volunteer Command or to both. The Indian correspondents are accredited to the U.N. Command and function from the demilitarized zone.

(c) Some newspapers in India take news photographs circulated by foreign

news agencies which function in Korea. The wrong caption to this particular photograph referred to was circulated by a foreign news agency.

(d) The Commander of the Indian Custodian Forces in Korea drew the attention of the foreign news agency concerned to the misleading caption published in Pacific Stars and Stripes (Korea edition) of September 30, 1953. An official contradiction was also issued on October 4, 1953 which was carried by the Indian Press. The foreign news agency concerned sent a letter of apology to General Thorat, Commander of the Custodian Force and the Stars and Stripes also expressed regret verbally.

## SHELLAC

\*682. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the position of Shellac Industry has improved since last year's slump;

(b) whether the export of Shellac to the U.S.A. has decreased to a great extent; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Some improvement is noticeable since April this year.

(b) No, Sir. According to the figures available with the Government, exports to U.S.A. during the current year are being maintained at the 1952-53 level, but as compared to 1951-52 there has been a decrease.

(c) The principal reason is a recession in demand. Increased competition from substitutes is also a contributory factor.

## IMPORT OF RIGS MACHINES

\*684. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Government of Bombay State have sought permission to import two rigs machines required in connection with the construction of Tube-Wells?