

Shri Gidwani: How long will it take to come to a final decision on this question?

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot give any firm answer to that.

SALT

*824. **Seth Achal Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is control on the Khewra and Sambhar salt:

(b) if so, where; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to throw this trade open to all shop-keepers in general so that it may be obtained in the market at cheaper rates?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) to (c). The import of rock salt from Khewra (Pakistan into India is not allowed under the Import Control Regulations.

The import, distribution and price of Sambhar salt within the States mentioned hereinafter are regulated either by executive orders, or Control Orders issued under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 in the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, PEPSU, Rajasthan, Delhi, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh, Ajmer, Madhya Bharat, Bilaspur and Assam.

Salt is imported into these States by the State Nominees who supply it to licensed retail dealers at prices fixed by the State Governments after taking into account all factors. The question of modifying the "Nominee" system in the light of the recommendations of the Committee on Commodity Controls is under the consideration of Government.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या गवर्नमेंट यह बताने की कृपा करेगी कि कंट्रोल के सम्बन्ध में नमक पर से कंट्रोल हटाने की क्या नीति है ?

श्री आर० जी० दुबे : मैं ने बताया कि कामोडिटी कंट्रोल कमेटी जो नियुक्त की गयी है वह इस सवाल पर सोच रही है और कामोडिटी कंट्रोल कमेटी ने जो कुछ रिक्मंडेशनस की हैं, उन के बारे में गवर्नमेंट विचार कर रही है ।

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सांभर नमक साल भर में कितने टन होता है ?

श्री आर० जी० दुबे : यह फिगरस तो मैं इस वक्त नहीं बता सकूंगा ।

Shri Kasliwal: Is it not a fact that India has already achieved self-sufficiency in salt?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It is true, Sir.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Not in Sambhar lake salt.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Not only self-sufficiency, but she is also in a position to export.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know, Sir, if Khewra salt—salt looking like Khewra salt—is being manufactured in Delhi?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No, Sir.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, in the case of salt which has become unfit for human consumption how it is disposed of?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Sir, as is known, the sodium chloride content of the salt for the current year is 94 per cent., and if it is found that a particular quantity of salt is below the standard, then it is declared unfit for consumption.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN HIRAKUD

*825. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to Starred Question