

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). There are no restrictions on export of Tapioca Starch from Travancore-Cochin State. Figures of quantity and value of actual export from that State are not available.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether Government have received any complaint from the people of Travancore-Cochin State with regard to the export of tapioca starch from that State and the serious effects it is having on the food problem in that State?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, so far as I am aware.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is Government aware that I myself have sent a complaint?

Shri Karmarkar: I will look into the matter.

SEMINAR ON LOW COST HOUSING

*382. **Shri Bhagwat Jba:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state which are the countries invited and who have accepted the invitation to participate in the Seminar on Low Cost Housing?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): Invitations for the Seminar have been issued by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. A list is placed on the Table of the House giving names of the countries participants from which are likely to attend. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 46.]

श्री भगवत झा : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस प्रदर्शनी में कितने प्रतियोगियों ने भाग लेने की सूचना दी है और कितने प्रकार के नमूने देखा किये जायेंगे ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. Member is confusing the Exhibition with the Seminar. The question relates to the Seminar. If he wants information on the Exhibition I can give that information.

SALT

*384. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got enough markets abroad for its surplus salt; and

(b) the quantity of salt exported so far during 1953?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No. The only major importer of Indian salt is Japan.

(b) The quantity exported by sea so far during 1953 is about 62 lakh maunds.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: If India has not got enough markets for her salt, are Government trying to find out some more markets elsewhere?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The production of salt in India has gone up in the last two years. The Government of India are exploring through certain Embassies the availability of new markets for salt. The results, I am afraid, have not so far been encouraging. At the same time the Salt Manufacturers' Association and certain enterprising manufacturers also are trying abroad to find new markets for the salt manufactured by them. Anyhow, efforts are being made to increase exports.

NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

*130. **Srri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many post and telegraph offices have newly been opened during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 in North-East Frontier Agency?

(b) How many air-strips are under construction for landing of planes in the North-East Frontier Agency, for regular supply of commodities?

(c) Has the supply position of food-grains considerably improved during recent months?