

to go waste every year from which nicotine could profitably be extracted?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I understand that 38 million lbs. of tobacco waste and 25 million lbs. of tobacco stalks are estimated annually to be available in the country.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** For how long are the negotiations with a private company for exploitation of the patent taken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research going on?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have not got the time for which the negotiations have been going on, but it is very recent.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** Will the hon. Minister kindly give the information at a later date?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The possibility of industrial utilisation of the stalks for the first time was engaging the attention of Government since 1949. As I said, I do not know for how long the negotiations are going on, but I will find it out.

#### REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN TRIPURA

\*1193. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) how much private land has been requisitioned by the Government of Tripura for the rehabilitation of displaced persons in the State;

(b) how much of this land belongs to the tribals and how much to others; and

(c) whether Government have given any compensation for this land?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) About 19,000 acres (From 1950 to 1953).

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I know whether it is a fact that in Tripura area, a large number of plots of land have been requisitioned by Government from the tribal people who had

only less than two or three acres of land each?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** That relates to part (b), about which information is being collected.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I know how the valuation of these lands is being determined?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It is determined according to the Land Acquisition Act.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Is the acquirement of the tribal land not protected by the Constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be a matter of interpretation of the Constitution.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** I put the same question last year and the hon. Minister replied that the information was being collected. It is one year now. May I know when this collection of information will be completed?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The question must have been tabled a month or so ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that last year a similar question was tabled and the same answer was given.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I do not know about it; but I shall look into it.

#### SALT

\*1194. **Shri B. C. Das:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a stoppage of work in the salt factories at Huma in Orissa State, from the last week of February, 1954 as a consequence of the strike of four thousand salt workers;

(b) the reasons for the stoppage of work by the salt workers; and

(c) how far the production of salt has been affected by the strike?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) and (b). Government's information is that about 250 to 300 workers in Ganjam Salt Factory, Humma, abstained from work at the beginning of the manufacturing season

owing to a difference of opinion between the workers and the salt licensees regarding the wages to be paid to the workers during 1954.

(c) It is reported that all the workers have since started work. No appreciable reduction in the overall production of salt is therefore, likely.

**Shri B. C. Das:** May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that the employers have not taken back about ninety workers?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

**Shri B. C. Das:** May I know whether Government have received any memorandum or copy of the demands of the Workers' Union?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** No, Sir, Government have not. But I may say that the Superintendent has intervened and some interim arrangement has been agreed to.

**Shri B. C. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the Minimum Wages Act is applicable to salt workers, and if not, whether there is any legal protection for the workers whose wages are being curtailed arbitrarily?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** This matter primarily rests with the State Government.

**Shri B. C. Das:** My question was whether the Minimum Wages Act is applicable to the salt workers, if not what legal protection there is for them.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has already said that the matter rests with the State Government.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** The working of the Act may be the responsibility of the State Government. But he should be in a position to say whether it is applicable to the salt workers.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** I shall look into it.

#### TEA PLANTATIONS

\*1195. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the answer to

unstarred question No. 198 asked on the 27th November, 1953 and state:

(a) the causes for the existence of the large gap between the permissible acreage of tea in India and the area actually under tea; and

(b) the measures Government propose to take to bridge the gap?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) It is difficult to state the reasons precisely. Presumably, the financial difficulties experienced by the tea industry last year and the aftermath might be one of the causes for lesser utilisation of the licences issued for planting.

(b) There is nothing much that Government can do in this regard. The Indian Tea Licensing Committee is responsible for issuing permits; but it is open to the planter to utilise such permits or not.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Have Government reason to believe that the rules regulating the expansion of tea cultivation have been so stringent that they have acted as a deterrent to further expansion of area under tea?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir, we have no reason to feel like that.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Do not Government think, Sir, that with the present sharp fall in our tea area and the steadily increasing consumption of tea, the industry is heading towards a crisis in the near future?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir, it is heading towards prosperity at the moment.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know, what proportion of the tea gardens belong to Indians who have not fully utilised the acreage allowed by the Tea Expansion Board?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have no figures of Indian and non-Indian tea gardens.

**Shri Barman:** May I know whether, in view of the importance of export of tea, Government will make an attempt to see that the quota allowed to the gardens if it is not utilised by them is transferred to other gardens.