

(b) Yes.

(c) Rupees fifty five (Rs. 55) per maund in March 1952.

ASSAM RIFLES

*1454. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what part of the Army expenditure on Assam Rifles is being borne by the State Government of Assam?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): None.

SALT

*1455. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state if any kind of control is still being exercised on salt?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Production of salt is controlled under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. The Salt Commissioner issues licences for the manufacture of salt in areas of more than 10 acres each. No licence is, however, required for the manufacture of salt in areas of less than 10 acres each.

As regards distribution, there is an indirect control in the shape of allotment of wagons for the movement of salt in accordance with the Zonal Scheme of Distribution on a priority basis. There is no control on the movement of salt in the ordinary course.

Importers are required to deposit 10 to 15 per cent. of their imports into Calcutta, in the Government godowns at Calcutta.

Some of the State Governments exercise control over the distribution and price of salt within their states.

REQUISITIONING OF HOUSES IN DELHI

*1456. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses requisitioned by the Government of India in Delhi and New Delhi which are still in the occupation of Government;

(b) how many of these houses have been allotted to the Foreign Embassies, Government officials and non-officials separately;

(c) the rents for these houses annually paid by Government; and

(d) the rents, Government is realising from its tenants annually?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 237.

(b) The numbers are as follows:—

(i) Foreign Embassies	... 36
(ii) Government officials and offices	... 177

(iii) Non-Officials (1) Complete Houses ... 15

(2) portions of houses ... 4

(c) Rs. 6,56,367-12-0.

(d) The rent realised is not a fixed amount but varies from time to time as in the case of Government Servants the recovery is limited to 10 per cent. of their pay. The realisations amount to Rs. 6,33,000 in round figures.

ADMINISTRATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY ACT

*1457. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any claims registered by Government under Rule 22(2) of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950 (No. XXXI of 1950), in which the Custodian has recorded reasons for refusing payment under Rule 22(3);

(b) if so, what is their number and amount in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) in case of the claims registered as above in which the custodian has not recorded any reasons for refusing it why the payment contemplated under Rule 22(3) has not yet been made; and

(d) whether there is any change of policy about making payments to the creditors specified in part (c) above?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). Sub-rules (2) and (3) of Rule 22 relate to the procedure for registration of third party claims and do not envisage payment, nor is any absolute obligation cast on the Custodian to state reasons for refusing payment. In fact a stage for payment of third party claims is not contemplated by Rule 22 as a whole. If there were any doubts on the subject, these should be removed by sub-rule (4) which prohibits payment by the Custodian of debts incurred by evacuees before the property vested in him without the sanction of the Central Government or the Custodian General. In the January 1949 Agreement it was laid down that the evacuee owner shall make provision for satisfaction of third party claims before he is given permission to sell or exchange his property. Thus to the extent that sales and exchanges took place under that Agreement, third party claims can be deemed to have been satisfied. After the failure of the January 1949 Agreement, however, the Government of India have taken the view that the evacuee property problem should be settled on a Government-to-Government level. The Government of India are considering what alternative provisions should be made for satisfaction of third party claims