

A large sum of money—Rs. 16,63,244—was received for earthquake relief in Assam and was passed on to the Earthquake Relief Fund opened by the Governor of Assam.

Grants to various States were usually sent to the Governor or to the Chief Minister.

#### CESS ON SALT

**361. Shri Rajagopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of the cess on salt being levied at present?

(b) What is the total amount so collected during each of the years since its introduction?

(c) What is the amount expended by way of collecting charges to collect this amount of cess?

(d) Is it a fact that salt used as raw material for Industrial purposes was exempt from the payment of the Salt Duty when the Duty was in operation?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Cess is levied at the rate of 3½ annas per maund on salt issued from Government factories and 2 annas per maund on salt issued from private licensed factories. The export of salt to Japan by sea is exempted from the payment of cess. No cess is levied on the produce of unlicensed salt factories covering areas of not more than 10 acres each.

(b) A statement showing the total amount of cess collected and annually is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No separate establishment is maintained for the collection of cess. The amount of cess is credited directly into the treasury by the manufacturers.

(d) A rebate equivalent to the duty was allowed to the industrial users of salt.

#### STATEMENT

*The cess was imposed with effect from the 1st April 1947. The following are the total amounts collected per annum since 1st April 1947:—*

Year	Total amount of cess
	Rs.
1947-48 . . . . .	77,63,000
1948-49 . . . . .	57,41,000
1949-50 . . . . .	68,34,000
1950-51 . . . . .	80,83,000
1951-52 . . . . .	79,10,000

#### SECURITIES OF INDIAN CONTRACTORS WITH PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

**362. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of securities deposited by Indian contractors for works to be done by them under tenders accepted by the Government of India (Directorate General, Supplies and Disposals) before Partition are still lying with the Pakistan Government; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India took up the question of refund of these securities to the depositors, who had to migrate to India on the Partition of the country, at any time with the Pakistan Government?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) So far as is known an amount of Rs. 1,86,050 deposited by contractors as security in respect of contracts placed by the Director General, Supplies and Disposals before the Partition is lying with the Government of Pakistan and has not yet been refunded by them to the contractors concerned. Of this amount, an amount of Rs. 1,71,050 relates to Disposals contracts, and the balance of Rs. 15,000 pertains to a purchase contract.

(b) Yes. The Pakistan Government have been informed that in accordance with the agreement arrived at, at the Indo-Pakistan Secretariat level Conference held in New Delhi from the 18th to 21st December, 1950, the Security Deposits relating to contracts should be dealt with along with the liability for the contracts and that the refund of these deposits should be made by the Government of Pakistan.

#### INDIA SUPPLY MISSION, U.S.A.

**363. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in the India Supply Mission in the U.S.A. and the total amount of purchases made by them; and

(b) whether the Mission gets confirmation of their transactions beforehand from Government?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohata):** (a) The total number of officers at present in position in the India Supply Mission in Washington is 15 gazetted and 77 non-gazetted.

The value of contracts placed by the India Supply Mission during the last