

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the total value and number of the licences issued?

Shri Karmarkar: During 1951, 988 licences were issued and their value was Rs. 25-74 crores.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the articles imported under these licences are not produced in our own country?

Shri Karmarkar: That is so, Sir.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if there is any proposal to import capital plants which will produce the electrical goods required by us in India?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

LICENCES FOR SALT FACTORIES

*741. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether any licenses for setting up new factories for the manufacture of salt were granted during the year 1951-52;

(b) if so, how many and for what places; and

(c) what was the quantity of salt produced by unlicensed small manufacturers during the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) 53 licences were issued for the setting up of new salt works. A statement showing the places to which the new licences relate is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19.]

(c) 25 lakh maunds approximately.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What checks are there to enforce the quality of the salt that is produced in these unlicensed factories?

Shri K. C. Reddy: With regard to unlicensed factories, I cannot say off-hand what is the exact machinery that exists. So far as licensed factories are concerned, the Salt Department takes good care to see that everything is done properly. I think there is a general sort of supervision in so far as unlicensed salt works are concerned, but as I said, I am not in a position to say now what exactly are the ways in detail by which the control is effected.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know if there is any compulsion on the facto-

ries producing salt to send in samples to the laboratories that are maintained for testing salt produced in India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is a detail in regard to which I should like to have notice to answer.

Shri Nana Dass: May I know whether it is a fact that an individual salt producer manufacturing salt in an area less than 10 acres need not pay any salt duty at all, whereas an individual salt producer manufacturing salt in an area of the same size, if it be a co-operative organisation, has got to pay salt duty at the rate of four annas per bag; if so, what are the reasons for this disparity?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The reasons are obvious. The granting of permission to small salt manufacturers to produce salt without any licence, as the hon. Member may be aware, has its origin in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931. Since then the concessions have been liberalised and within an area of ten acres unlicensed salt manufacturers can go on producing salt. They need not pay any licence fee. But so far as others are concerned, they have to pay a nominal licence fee. This applies to co-operative societies, for example, to which the hon. Member referred.

NIGHT SHIFTS IN TEXTILE MILLS

*742. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills in the country that gave notice to close night shifts during the period from March to April, 1952;

(b) the total number of workers that were thrown out of work due to the closing of night shifts; and

(c) how many of these mills were able to open night shifts again?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) to (c). 44 cotton textile mills threatened to close down their night shifts during the period March and April 1952. Out of this three mills closed and continue to remain closed so far affecting 575 workers. Two other mills closed down for a short period of about 25 days only and then resumed working. 585 workers were affected during this period. Other mills have either withdrawn or postponed closure notices.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether before giving notice of closure the mills are required to acquaint the Textile Commissioner with the situation with which they are faced?