

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I ask one question, Sir?

**Dr. Ram-Subhag Singh:** One question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** I find there are a number of Members who want to ask one question. I think we may go to the next question.

**Shri. M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know Sir,.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not want to make any invidious distinction by allowing Mr. Dwivedi and not allowing others. Next question.

#### KHARAGHODA SALT FOR U. P.

\*1207. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that great discontent prevails throughout the Eastern districts beyond Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on imposition of ban on entry of Kharaghoda salt and forcing the people to consume the costliest sea salt;

(b) whether Government are aware that certain sections of the Press in Uttar Pradesh and Bombay have strongly condemned the above action of Government; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Kharaghoda salt is cheaper than the sea salt supplied to those Eastern districts?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Yes; there is some discontent in certain eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh which were previously getting supplies of salt from both Kharaghoda and Calcutta, and which have now been switched on wholly to Calcutta. However, this cannot be helped, as the production of Sambhar salt has fallen considerably owing to deficient rainfall, so that Kharaghoda salt has now to be supplied to the areas formerly fed from Sambhar, with the result that some of the areas which were previously fed from Kharaghoda are now getting only sea salt from Calcutta.

(b) Yes; but the Government of Uttar Pradesh have already explained the correct position fully in their Press Note No. 178, dated 29th April 1952, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 12.]

(c) Yes; Kharaghoda salt is somewhat cheaper than the sea salt, the average difference in their retail prices being about 3 pies per seer.

**Shri R. N. Singh:** May I know which salt was exported to Japan?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I am sorry, I cannot answer the question now. If the

hon. Member gives notice, I shall answer the question.

**Shri R. N. Singh:** Are the Government aware that the people in the U.P. prefer this salt, it being good and cheap, but that they were not provided with even 50 per cent. of their requirements and a huge quantity was exported to Japan?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Regarding exports to Japan, I have already said that I want notice. Regarding the other aspect, I have already answered it in the course of my reply.

#### SALT DUTY

\*1208. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a cess duty of annas two a maund has been levied on sea salt in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** It is not a fact.

#### DESPATCH OF SEA SALT TO U. P.

\*1209. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state since how long M/S. Jamnadas Srinivasi Ltd., of Calcutta have been appointed the sole despatchers of sea salt to the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh and on whose orders and how such appointment was made?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** Since January 1951. The Government of Uttar Pradesh appointed this firm in consultation with the Salt Commissioner, after inviting tenders.

#### COMMUNITY PROJECT IN MADRAS

\*1210. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centres and the villages in each centre under the Community Development Project in the Madras State; and

(b) the amount sanctioned and expended in 1950-51?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) Six projects have been allotted to Madras State as follows:

- (1) Kurnool-Cuddapah—179 villages.
- (2) Coimbatore—188 villages.
- (3) Malabar—123 villages.
- (4) East Godavari—242 villages.
- (5) South Kanara—442 villages.
- (6) Madurai—279 villages.

(b) Nil.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has the hon. Member any supplementary question? I think we may better go to the next question.