

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.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The answer to part (b) is not known to me.

Mr. Speaker: The answer is 'Nil'.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know how many villages roughly will be covered by one project?

Mr. Speaker: I think he has stated that in the figures given.

Shri Velayudhan: I want to know how many villages each project will cover.

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has stated already, I believe.

Shri Nanda: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will be more attentive.

Shri Velayudhan: How much population will be covered?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing.

Shri Nanda: I can give figures of population also.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

SALE OF LAND TO FOREIGN MISSIONS

*1211. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the conditions, if any, for the sale of land or buildings to foreign Embassies?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): No special conditions have been laid down by the Government of India; land or buildings can be sold to diplomatic missions on terms and conditions agreed upon between the owners and the buyers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how many Embassies have acquired lands in India?

Shri Satish Chandra: In New Delhi, four foreign countries and two Commonwealth countries, six in all, have acquired land and buildings. One other country has acquired land only.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Which is that other country?

Shri Satish Chandra: Indonesia.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, Embassies have acquired lands and buildings?

Shri Satish Chandra: There are some buildings which have been acquired by foreign countries in Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. In Bombay, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Afghanistan have acquired buildings; in Calcutta and Madras, USA.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it a fact that there is a rush for lands and buildings being acquired by foreign Embassies in Ernakulam?

Shri Satish Chandra: I am not aware.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister said that these transactions took place on terms agreed to by the sellers and the buyers. Am I to understand that Government exercises no control over these transactions?

Shri Satish Chandra: There is no question of control. Each of them is a transaction between private parties and the Government concerned. Similarly, when we acquire property or land in foreign countries, we deal with private parties and the Governments there do not interfere in these transactions.

REORGANISATION OF C. W. & P. COMMISSION

*1212. **Shri Kelappan:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether Government propose to re-organise the Ministerial staff of C. W. and P. Commission in the light of the criticism of the Estimates Committee in para. 20 of its Fifth Report (1951-52)?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): The recommendation is under examination of the Government of India.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know when a decision is likely to be taken?

Mr. Speaker: Order. order. That is the usual question.

Shri A. C. Guha: Some time ago, the same reply was given. The report was submitted some months ago.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

ECONOMIES IN D.V.C.

*1213. **Shri Kelappan:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any economies have been effected in the Rehabilitation and Development Departments of the Damodar Valley Corporation in pursuance of the recommendations of the Estimates Committee in paras. 27 and 28 of its Fifth Report; and

(b) whether Government will be pleased to appoint a committee to enquire into the work done by the Rehabilitation and Development department and to suggest reforms?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). As stated in my reply to Starred Question No. 743 put by the Hon'ble Shri B. R. Bhagat on the 12th June 1952, the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

Shri Velayudhan: How long will this consideration take?

Mr. Speaker: Let us not put that same question every now and then. Next question.