

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Sir, he says, "Financial Commissioners". My question does not refer to Financial Commissioners—it refers to boundary disputes.

Shri Satish Chandra: Boundary disputes are dealt with by Financial Commissioners of the two Punjabs.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Then may I know what are the tentative decisions that have been taken?

Shri Satish Chandra: The whole thing is under negotiation. Certain tentative decisions have been taken such as exploring the possibility of demarcating the boundary line and erecting pillars so that no such dispute may occur in future. There are some other agreed points but the final decisions have yet to be taken.

SALT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*185. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to reconstitute the Salt Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) what the new functions of the Committee will be?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes; the Salt Advisory Committee was reconstituted in March 1952.

(b) It was found desirable to include representatives of the main Associations, etc., in their representative rather than individual capacities, and also to include representatives of the main State Governments concerned, and a representative of labour engaged in the salt industry.

(c) A copy of the Government of India Resolution No. Salt-18(8)/48, dated the 26th March, 1952 showing the functions of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 2.]

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Is the hon. Minister in a position to give the personnel of the re-constituted Committee?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give the personnel of the Committee straight-away, but I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Government order I have referred to.

The Committee is to comprise the following:—

Secretary of Ministry of Works, Production and Supply—Chairman.

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Works, Production and Supply—Member.

Industrial Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry—Member.

Salt Controller—Member-Secretary

A representative of the Government of Bombay—Member.

A representative of the Government of Madras—Member.

A representative of the Government of Saurashtra—Member.

A representative of the Government of West Bengal—Member.

A representative of the Indian Salt Manufacturers Association, Bombay—Member.

A representative of the Bombay Salt Merchants and Shiloltries Association, Bombay—Member.

A representative of the Uran Salt Merchants and Shiloltries Syndicate, Bombay—Member.

A representative of the Madras Provincial Salt Industrialists Association, Madras—Member.

A representative of the Salt Manufacturers and Merchants Association, Tuticorin—Member.

A representative of the Calcutta Salt Association Ltd., Calcutta—Member.

A representative of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, Calcutta—Member.

A representative of labour employed in the Salt Industry.

I may supplement this information by saying that the Committee has since been constituted and a meeting of the Committee has, I believe, also taken place recently.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the distribution of salt in the different States is one of the functions of the Committee?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Surely, yes.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: May I know why was the necessity felt for the reconstitution of this Committee?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already indicated briefly in the course of my answer the main reason for the reconstitution of this Committee, namely, the various associations were represented in this committee as nominated representatives in their individual capacities rather than as duly nominated representatives by the associations concerned. This was the main reason. I may supplement the answer by giving two or three other reasons. At the time of the constitution of the original Committee, no period was fixed for which the Committee should function. Another matter that was considered by the Government of India was whether there should be a non-official Chairman or an official Chairman. Another point was that in the Committee as originally constituted there was no labour representative and it was considered desirable that there should be a labour representative on the Committee. For all these reasons, the Government of India felt that a reconstitution of this Committee was called for and accordingly it was reconstituted.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know who represents labour in this particular Committee? Is there any trade union body and has the representative been taken from that body?

Shri K. C. Reddy: So far as I am aware, there is one trade union connected with the salt industry and the opinion of that union has been taken into consideration when nominating the representative of labour.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Is there any member from Sambar Salt Works, which is the biggest works in India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I want notice.

REFUSAL OF PASSPORTS

*186. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegates who sought passports to go to Moscow to attend the International Economic Conference held in Moscow in the first week of April, 1952; and

(b) whether any of them have been refused passports and if so, their names and the reasons for refusal?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:) (a) As far as the Government of India are aware, 44 persons applied for passport facilities to go to Moscow, to attend the International Economic Conference.

(b) Passports were issued to 36 persons. They were refused to 8 persons

as Government did not think that the grant of passports to them would have been in the public interest. Government do not consider it proper to disclose the names of these 8 persons.

Shri Nambiar: May I know why the passport was refused to these eight persons? In what way was their visit against the public interest?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Because their visit was not considered desirable or in the interests of India.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, at least for information, what was the undesirability?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member certainly does not expect me to discuss personalities here.

Shri Nambiar: I do not want the names. I only want to know the reason for the undesirability.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will see that out of 44 who applied, passports were given for 36. In the other cases, there must have been some personal considerations. It is no use discussing personalities.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if there is any Member of this House who is one among the 8?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the hon. Member insists, I believe—and I speak subject to correction—that the hon. Member himself is one of them!

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know, Sir, as one who was refused a passport to the U. S. S. R. last year, what exactly was the undesirability of my visiting the Soviet country?

Mr. Speaker: I think this does not arise. Perhaps, there is a misunderstanding of the reply given by the Prime Minister, who has said that while the policy to permit persons to visit Moscow will continue, personalities should not be discussed where permission has been refused. I do not like to encourage the discussion of personalities here.

PRODUCTION IN SINDRI FACTORY

*187. **Shri Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state the quantity of artificial fertilisers produced in Sindri Factory since the 30th October, 1951?

(b) What amount of foreign exchange has been saved to India on account of local production of Ammonium Sulphate in Sindri during the last 6 months?