

(b) what is the amount spent on that account so far?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) No Arid Zone Research has so far been carried out in India.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SPECIAL CLAIMS OFFICERS

**\*2236. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some retired District and Sessions Judges were appointed as special claims officers to verify claims of the value of over one lakh on account of their considerable judicial experience; and

(b) whether the verification of the claims is completed?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

#### VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS

**\*2237. Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that claims verified after May 1951 have been assessed at a lower value than the claims verified before that date on account of enforcement of certain rules by the Chief Claims Commissioner;

(b) whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued to revise the valuation of only 20 per cent. of the claims verified before May, 1951; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomaly?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise. It may however be stated that out of about 0.5 lakh claims decided before 31-5-51, some had been over-valued and it was decided to revise them. So far 14,290 of these cases have been checked out of which 1,020 appear to have been over-valued. They have been sent to Claims Officers for *sue motu* revision.

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#### HUNGER STRIKE BY DISPLACED PERSONS

**\*2238. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any hunger strike was resorted to by the displaced persons at Silchar (Assam) and if so, the date on which the hunger strike began and the number of persons involved;

(b) the causes for the hunger strike; and

(c) the steps taken to end the hunger strike?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A.P. Jain):** (a) Yes, a hunger strike was undertaken by five persons on the 25th June, 1952.

(b) Demands for more relief and rehabilitation benefits and a fresh enumeration of displaced persons in Cachar.

(c) It was explained to hunger strikers that relief and rehabilitation benefits were adequately provided for under the sanctioned schemes. The hunger strike was called off on the 5th July, 1952.

#### SALT

**\*2238-A. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and requirements of salt in India in the years 1948 to 1952;

(b) whether salt is produced only by the Government or private companies also are allowed to produce and if so, what is the percentage produced by each; and

(c) the names of private companies producing salt?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) A statement showing the total annual production and consumption of salt in India for the years 1948—1952 is laid in the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 49.]

(b) Both Government and private parties manufacture salt. Government produce about 25 per cent. and the remaining 75 per cent. is produced by private parties.

(c) About 4,800 licences have been granted to private parties for the manufacture of salt. Besides, there are petty manufacturers who are not required to take out licences for manufacture. It is not practicable to give the names of all the private parties producing salt.