

constitution and personnel of the Central Tea Board?

(b) What is the total amount of fund which they administer?

(c) What is the control of the Central Government over this Board as regards its administration?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) About Rs. 85 lakhs annually.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 19.]

SALT ORGANISATION AND GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

*1064. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the Departmental Committee appointed to examine the set-up of the Salt Organisation and the work of the Government Factories has submitted its report?

(b) If so, what are its chief recommendations?

(c) If not, how long is it likely to take?

(d) Have Government finalised their decision regarding the recommendation of the Estimates Committee in regard to the abolition of the licensing system and if not, when are they likely to do so?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Report is likely to be submitted soon.

(d) Government hope to come to a final decision shortly. Meanwhile the Hon'ble Member may be interested to know that both the Salt Experts Committee and the Salt Advisory Committee have recommended continuation of the licensing system.

REHABILITATION IN CACHAR

*1065. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many displaced persons have entered the district of Cachar to date?

(b) How many have been rehabilitated on land and how many otherwise, and how many still remain to be rehabilitated?

(c) How many were rehabilitated on tea gardens through the India Tea Association and at what cost?

(d) What has been the total expenditure incurred by the Central Government up to date?

(e) How many still remain to be rehabilitated?

(f) Has the Central Government expressed a desire that the Government of Assam should take over the rehabilitation work in Cachar?

(g) Have the Assam Government asked for an enquiry into the extent of rehabilitation done up to date before it takes over?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) According to the All India census of March, 1951, the number of displaced persons residing in the district was 93,349.

(b) and (e). Attention is invited to the reply given by me to part (d) of Starred Question No. 1904 by Shri S. C. Deb on the 21st July, 1952.

(c) 2,100 families;

Rs. 21 lakhs approximately.

(d) Rs. 1,41,34,954.

(f) and (g). The matter is under correspondence with the Assam Government.

PROPAGANDA FOR INDIAN TEA

*1066. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to carry on propaganda for Indian Tea abroad?

(b) If so, in what countries?

(c) Has any organisation been set up for the purpose and if so, what?

(d) Have Government explored the possibility of selling our tea to the Soviet Union and East European countries either for cash or on barter system?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). I may refer to the statement made in reply to part (a) of the Starred Question 158 answered at the meeting of the House of the People on the 10th November, 1952.

(d) Tea has appeared in the past as an item of export in barter agreements with the Soviet Union. Exports of tea are freely permitted to all East European countries.

IMPORTED SILK (PRICES AND DISTRIBUTION)

*1067. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any action has been taken in regard to the Tariff Board's recommendation that powers should be taken under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act to regulate the prices and distribution of imported silk?