

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Corporation to assist the small units in the manufacture of components and other articles required by large-scale industries; and

(c) whether any survey has been made in the matter ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Small Scale Industries Corporation is organising in the first place the leather footwear, the hosiery and hardware industries for this purpose.

(b) The Corporation would be giving these units technical assistance and also financial assistance when required.

(c) A survey is now being conducted.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what is the capital of this Corporation and whether the Government have any intention to increase the amount ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The authorised capital is Rs. 10 lakhs. As the hon. Member knows, the capital in the case of a corporation in which the Government are interested, happens to be a notional figure. Government would find all the money, that is necessary should the purpose for which the corporation has been established, warrant it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what other steps Government are taking in regard to the components and other parts mentioned in part (b) and in which industries ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have indicated what we are doing in the preliminary stages. The matter is now being surveyed. Before we proceed further, we will have to get some more information.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know what is the method adopted for the survey mentioned by the hon. Minister and whether the survey will include only the articles mentioned by the hon. Minister or all other small industries also ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The survey must include the articles mentioned by me and such other industries as we contemplate taking an interest in. The methods of survey are the usual methods, by sending out people to get information.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether this corporation will be a full-fledged company registered under the Companies Act or is it going to be run by the Government just administratively ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a full-fledged company registered under the Companies Act, and it has a Board outside the place where it is supposed to function. It is a purely Government corporation and it will have to be run on more or less Government lines with such latitude as a corporation would permit.

Shri T. N. Singh: What would be the share capital that this company will float: authorised capital, subscribed capital, etc ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have told my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta that the authorised capital is Rs. 10 lakhs. The amount of the authorised capital is just a notional figure. Government are prepared to find all the money necessary for the purpose for which this corporation has been established.

Salt

***351. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiee** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 14 on the 5th May, 1955 and state:

(a) the date from which the cess on the manufacture of salt in areas which are ten acres or less in size is not to be collected;

(b) whether licence will not be required for such small-scale producers; and

(c) the measures by which a check is exercised on the quality of such salt ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Unlicensed salt manufacturers working in areas of 10 acres and less were exempted from the payment of the cess with effect from the 23rd April, 1948. Licensed manufacturers who were working in areas of 10 acres and less, including such manufacturers who are organised as members of Co-operative Societies, even if the total area under salt production with each of such Societies exceeded ten acres, were exempted from the payment of the cess with effect from 15th May, 1955.

(b) No.

(c) No check is exercised at present on the quality of such salt but the question as to how such check can be exercised is receiving the consideration of Government.

Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiee: May I know the loss suffered by the Government ?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No question of loss suffered by the Government. By this exemption, Government will be getting about Rs. 10 lakhs less by way of salt cess.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether the splitting of holdings so as to bring them within the exemptible limit has already commenced and how far the present reform affects the bigger manufacturers?

Shri K. C. Reddi: I would require notice to answer this question.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there is any demand from salt manufacturers having more than 10 acres for exemption from cess and if so, what is the attitude of the Government?

Shri K. C. Reddi: Naturally, there is a demand on the part of all salt manufacturers for exemption from the payment of cess. So far as the decision taken is concerned, I have already indicated that. As regards the demand from other manufacturers, the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

State Trading Corporation

*352. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2370 on the 19th April, 1955 and state:

(a) whether any decision to establish a State Trading Corporation has been taken;

(b) if so, what will be its main functions and

(c) by what time it is expected to be established?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government are at least convinced of the utility and necessity of such a corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Conviction does not carry us very far. We may be convinced; but that does not mean that we will be doing anything about it. Government are considering the matter. Conviction does not enter into the question at all.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Ministry is aware of the recommendation of the Taxation Inquiry Commission? It has recommended a State Trading corporation. May I know whether the Government has approved of the recommendation of the Taxation Inquiry Commission?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to the recommendation of the Taxation Inquiry Commission, the question may be addressed to the Finance Minister.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the Government contemplate any sort of State trading during the Second Five Year Plan without the establishment of a State Trading Corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We might contemplate that contingency. The Second Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Patel Lectures

*354. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the A.I.R. proposes to start a series of lectures called the "Patel Lectures" and;

(b) if so, when this scheme will come into operation?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The series will be inaugurated on 14th August, 1955 with a lecture by Shri C. Rajagopalachari at the Convocation Hall, University of Bombay.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know the names of the learned persons who have been approached by the A.I.R. to contribute their learning and knowledge for these lectures?

Dr. Keskar: No plan can be made so far in advance for a series of lectures which will be delivered every year. This first lecture is only an inauguration. It is proposed every year to invite some eminent persons, scientists or literateurs or others to deliver a series of lectures. The names of persons suitable will be considered in due time.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know the language in which these will be delivered, and whether regional languages will get benefit?

Dr. Keskar: There is no special language restriction. Normally speaking, English and Hindi might be the main languages. There is no bar to the lectures being delivered in any other regional language.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether, if people from outside volunteer to come and deliver lectures on this subject, will they be allowed?

Dr. Keskar: This is not meant for applicants. The persons will be prominent persons whom we consider suitable for delivering the lectures.