

Shri Kasliwal : May I know whether Government propose further to relax controls on the production and distribution of salt in addition to what has been stated by the hon. Minister ?

Shri Satish Chandra : As I said, there is not much of statutory control. If the hon. Member has heard my answer, he will find that the only control exercised at present is on the zonal movement. That in fact assists the movement of salt from the producing centres to the consuming areas. The quality control is of course exercised on the production of salt.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : I wanted to know about the manufacture of salt by unlicensed manufacturers. Is any sort of control maintained over those people with regard to the manufacture of standard salt ?

Shri Satish Chandra : The answer that I gave was in regard to unlicensed manufacturers. The salt manufactured by licensed manufacturers is subject to quality control. *But as far as unlicensed manufacturers are concerned, whose holdings are less than 10 acres, it is now being subjected to quality control in Madras, and the idea is to extend it to other States.

Shri V. P. Nayar : In answer to a supplementary, the hon. Minister stated that there is no rock-salt manufactured in India at present. May I know whether Government are aware that for purposes for which rock-salt has to be used, especially medicinal preparations, the rock-salt has to be purchased at prices varying from about 25 times the normal price of rock-salt, because it is in terrible short supply here ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : That is a suggestion for the production of rock-salt.

Shri V. P. Nayar : We are importing rock-salt from Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That is only a suggestion for action. If the hon. Member wants to explain, I have no objection.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : A small quantity of rock-salt is being produced at Mandi. Apart from that, I may tell the hon. Member that according to the recent trade agreement between India and Pakistan, a certain quantity of rock-salt has been agreed to be imported.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy : May I know what technical advice Government provide to the small manufacturers to manufacture salt to standard specifications ?

Shri K. C. Reddy : The Salt Department has a scheme by means of which the quality of salt etc., that is produced may be improved. They have drawn up a five year scheme, and it is being implemented gradually, and under this scheme, the small manufacturers also will be benefited.

Steel Fabricating Units

*1167. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to refer to the statement made by him in the House on the 15th April, 1955 and state :

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken for the setting up of three steel fabricating units with foundry and forging capacity in the country ; and

(b) if so, whether they will be established by public sector or private sector ?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) No, Sir. But the matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : By what time can we expect Government to come to a final decision on this matter ?

Shri Kanungo : Shortly.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : What is the meaning of 'shortly' ?

Shri Kanungo : I cannot give a date, but I believe it will be within this year.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know whether any decision has been taken about the location of the fabricating units ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : I would like to explain further what my colleague has said. The problem of setting up forging plants and foundries on a big scale is not an easy thing. The technical problems involved therein are rather difficult. We are investigating into the possibility of getting the type of machinery that is required, the type of plants that we require etc., and I am afraid a technical evaluation of our needs will certainly take time. It is really not a matter of my going and purchasing something in the bazar tomorrow and setting it up.

*This was later corrected by the Deputy Minister of Production vide Column No. 4164

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know whether in this attempt we are getting assistance of any foreign technical staff ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Not so far as it is proposed at present. Perhaps, if the need arises, we might approach one of our friends for some technical assistance.

Mr. Harvill Weller

*1168. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited Mr. Harvill Weller of the Mississippi River Commission to advise on flood control measures ; and

(b) if so, the salary to be paid to him for his assignment in India ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No salary was paid to Mr. Weller. He was paid only the actual travelling expenses incurred by him on his visits to project sites in India.

Shri Gidwani : When was the Flood Control Board appointed here, and what measures have been adopted so far to control the floods ?

Shri Hathi : I think the first Flood Control Board met in September, 1954. Subsequent to that, various States were requested to have State Flood Control Boards. By now, 11 States have formed State Flood Control Boards.

Shri Gidwani : May I know whether any embankments have been washed away during the recent floods, and if so, what has been the loss ?

Shri Hathi : On what project or in what particular area does the hon. Member want the information ?

Shri Gidwani : On Kosi.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : How does it arise out of this ? One Commissioner came here for the purpose of inquiring and giving advice. Has he given advice that this must be washed away ?

Shri B. S. Murthy : What are the rivers studied by this gentleman, and may I know whether he has given any report up till now ?

Shri Hathi : This expert visited Dibrugarh, Palasbari and Sualkuchi in Assam, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and Kosi in Bihar. He also went to the Central Water and Power Research station at Poona and studied the models there. He has submitted a report also. He has made about six to seven recommendations.

Shri B. S. Murthy : What are the other rivers he was commissioned to study and report ?

Shri Hathi : He was only required to visit these sites.

Shri Gidwani : What is the nature of those seven recommendations he has made ?

Shri Hathi : Technical nature.

Shri Kamath : Is it not a fact that very recently some of our engineers went to China to study flood control schemes there, and have submitted their report ? If so, which of the two techniques and methods, the Chinese technique and method or the American technique or method, is more suitable to Indian conditions ?

Shri Hathi : I may mention for the information of the hon. Member that the Chief Engineer of China also came here. He also looked into the Kosi project—he also had an opportunity of seeing our work on the Kosi project.

Shri Kamath : My question was different. Which of the technique or methods is more suitable to Indian conditions—the Chinese or American ?

Shri Hathi : The condition, of course, varies according to river conditions, not according to a particular country. The problems generally are the same, but this similarity is not with regard to country, but with regard to the nature of the river. And so far as flood is concerned, the problem presented by the Kosi resembles the problem presented by the Chinese river.

Shri Kamath : I asked about the two methods—will they co-exist here ?

Dr. Rama Rao : Our engineers have drawn up a scheme for flood control and they have been proceeding on a certain line. Are the recommendations made by the American engineer materially different from the line that our engineers have been following ?

Shri Hathi : They mostly agree, there is no material difference.