

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) The total stock of tobacco in the Gujerat area on 30-9-55 was 136 million lbs. Information regarding how much of this was produced in each year from 1952 onwards is not readily available.

(b) and (c) Gujerat mainly produces tidi tobacco. There is very little demand from foreign countries for such tobacco. The steps that are being taken by Government to stimulate exports of Indian tobacco, including tidi tobacco are contained in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 9].

Salt

***1034. Shri S. C. Samanta :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to open new salt works on the Eastern Coast during the First Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there are any fresh proposals for the Second Five Year Plan ; and

(c) whether the salt areas in Contai in Midnapur District and those in Sundarbans in 24 Parganas Districts in West Bengal have been taken into consideration ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) to (c). Government have not themselves opened any new salt works on the East Coast or elsewhere but the Salt Department have been encouraging the production of Salt and also improvement in quality of salt, by giving technical help and advice to the private manufacturers. As a result of this encouragement and help, salt production on the East Coast has increased from 152 lakh maunds in 1949 to 244 lakh maunds in 1953. The production in 1954 showed a slight decrease due to adverse weather conditions.

During the Second Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to spend a considerable sum for the development and improvement of salt works on the East Coast out of which nearly rupees 10 lakhs will be for the development of salt works in the Calcutta region, including Contai and Sundarbans in West Bengal.

The West Bengal Government are consulting the Salt Commissioner on certain schemes for encouraging production of salt.

सोडा भस्म (ऐश) का कारखाना

***१०३५. श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** क्या बालिगुज और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मेसर्स साहू कैमिकल्स ने डालमिया नगर में सोडा भस्म बनाने के निमित्त कारखाना खोलने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार से आज्ञा मांगी थी ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस फर्म ने डालमिया नगर में कारखाना खोलने के बजाय लखनऊ में एक कारखाना खोलने के लिये अभी हाल में प्रार्थना की है ; और

(ग) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार को बिहार सरकार से कोई विरोध पत्र मिला है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री कामूनगो) : (क) तथा (ख). जी, हां। मेसर्स साहू कैमिकल्स को सोडा भस्म और अमोनियम क्लोराइड बनाने के लिये डालमिया नगर में एक कारखाना स्थापित करनेका लायसेंस दिया गया था लेकिन अब उन्होंने यह प्रार्थना की है कि उनको प्रस्तावित कारखाना लखनऊ में स्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

(ग) जी, नहीं। बिहार सरकार ने प्रस्ताव पर विचार करने के लिये समय मांगा है।

Newsprint Factory at Bhavanisagar

1036. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a newsprint factory at Bhavanisagar at the foot of the Nilgiris;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been prepared therefor;

(c) the estimated cost at which it will be constructed; and

(d) when the construction work will start ?