

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): The approximate annual purchases are to the tune of 60,000 tons, out of a total production of 185,000 tons.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know the number of Indian mills from which Government have made their purchases?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice about that, because the number may vary from year to year.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

***443. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Missions inspected by the Foreign Service Inspectors so far during the year 1955-56; and

(b) the number that remains still to be inspected?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) 21.

(b) 49.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the agency through which this inspection is carried out, and whether that agency belong to the External Affairs Ministry, or it is a part of the Finance Ministry? May I know also the status of these inspectors?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: On several occasions in the past we have replied to such questions. The inspectorate is composed of two joint secretaries of the Ministry of External Affairs, and one officer, having the status of a joint secretary, of the Ministry of Finance.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether these inspectors carry out an overall inspection, or they deal only with financial matters?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind when he says, overall inspection. The inspectorate was specially created to advise Government with

regard to the refixation of the foreign allowances of the officers, the ceiling rents for accommodation, purchase of property, revision of sumptuary allowances etc.; but any matter which they think is of importance to Government obviously would be brought to the notice of Government.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In view of the fact that only one inspection has been carried out during this year, and 49 more inspections are yet to be carried out, is it not necessary that Government should expand their machinery or increase the tempo of the inspection?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is very difficult to increase the size of the inspectorate; apart from the question of finance involved, there is the question of suitable personnel. In 1954, the inspectorate visited 13 stations; in 1955 they visited as many as 21 stations; in 1956, 10 more stations are to be inspected. That will leave us another 30 stations.

नमक

***४४४. श्री के० सी० सोधीया :** क्या उत्पादन मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि नमक की बिक्री दर को निश्चित करते समय अन्य व्ययों के साथ साथ सरकारी कारखानों में लगी हुई पूंजी पर चालू ब्याज का ध्यान नहीं रखा जाता है ?

उत्पादन उपमंत्री (श्री सतीश चन्द्र): उत्पादन की लागत के आधार पर नमक का बिक्री दर निश्चित किया जाता है। लगी हुई पूंजी का ब्याज भी लागत में सम्मिलित रहता है।

श्री के० सी० सोधीया : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि लगी हुई पूंजी का ब्याज हिसाब में डाला गया था या नहीं डाला गया था ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : मंने अर्ज किया कि वह हिसाब में शामिल रहता है।

श्री के० सी० सोधीया : क्या ब्याज को शामिल किया गया था ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : जी हाँ, शामिल किया गया यही मैं अर्ज कर रहा हूँ।

Shri K. C. Sodhia : What I mean to say is that if it had been taken into account, then there would have been no objection in audit. Has the Minister seen the audit report on the Production Ministry, in which it is stated that the interest charges have not been taken into account in fixing the sale-price of salt ?

Shri Satish Chandra : I have no information at present. I do not know which audit report the hon. Member is referring to. While calculating the cost of production, 4 per cent. interest on capital is taken into account.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि नमक की सेलिंग आइस में कौन कौन सा खर्चा शामिल किया जाता है और मौजूदा रेट नमक का क्या है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : किसी व्यापारी द्वारा नमक बनाने में जो खर्चा पड़ेगा, वह सारा खर्चा शामिल किया जाता है ।

Shri Bansi Lal : May I know the percentage of salt produced in Government sources and private sources separately ?

Shri Satish Chandra : I could give exact figures only if a separate notice of the question is given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : There are administration reports. Let us go to the next question.

Shri K. C. Sodhia : May I know . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member has asked three questions already.

Shri K. C. Sodhia : I want to put only one more question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : No.

NEIVELI LIGNITE PROJECT

***446. Shri Veeraswamy :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Irrigation Adviser, Government of

India and Member, Lignite Project Co-ordinating Committee visited Neiveli in Madras State towards the end of December, 1955 ;

(b) whether the Lignite Project Committee meeting was held there ; and

(c) if so, the purposes thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) The Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India visited Neiveli towards the end of December, 1955. Though not a member of the Project Co-ordinating Committee, he has been closely associated with lignite investigations as an expert on drilling and casing of pump wells.

(b) Yes, the meeting was held on the 29th December, 1955.

(c) The meeting reviewed the progress of work with special reference to the preparations for pumping tests. Problems connected with land acquisition and purchase of equipment were also discussed.

Shri Veeraswamy : May I know whether any arrangements have been made to pump out the water from the large area which has been covered by water?

Shri Satish Chandra : The pumping tests have started a few days back.

Shri Veeraswamy : May I know whether the German experts who were touring the country were also present at that meeting, and whether they have given any suggestions to Government for easy pumping out of the water from there?

Shri Satish Chandra : There was no question of German experts being present at that meeting. Some German experts who came here in connection with the Industries Fair desired to visit the project, and they were given all facilities. They have generally approved of the lines along which work is being carried on.