

Shri Satish Chandra: It is so distributed in many States because the states have lost confidence in the Sambhar traders on account of their past tactics in business.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know by when these Sambhar traders are likely to be rehabilitated according to the statement of hon. Deputy Minister?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is strictly speaking not a question of rehabilitation. Sambhar is a small town near the salt lake and most of the inhabitants carried on business in salt. On account of their activities during the days when supply position was acute, controls had to be introduced. They were thrown out of business. Gradually, they are being brought back into the business.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Radha Raman: One point, Sir. Before you pass to the next question, questions 127 and 136 are alike. If you could kindly have these two questions taken together, it will be convenient.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sure hon. Members have seen the bulletin regarding the manner in which questions are allowed. If an hon. Member tables three questions, all the questions are not printed together. Questions are allowed to be put with respect to particular Ministers. They may interlink one question with another. In order to avoid the same Member getting all the questions, one question is taken from each Member and in that order it is printed. After they are exhausted, other questions from the same Member are taken. Priority is given according to the time of notice. If every time I am asked to link up one question with another, that wholesome rule will disappear. Hon. Members will begin to complain. Anyhow, I have no objection to do it today.

Shri Radha Raman: It is only a request, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Question No. 136 may also be answered with Question No. 127. Shri G. L. Chaudhary absent. Much ado about nothing.

Shri Radha Raman: I am here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But, he is not a joint signatory to this. Has he got a general power of attorney?

NAHAN FOUNDRY LIMITED

***128, Shri Boovaraghasamy:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nahan Foundry Limited in Himachal Pradesh is working at a loss since it was taken over by Government; and

(b) if so, amount of loss during 1955-56?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). No. Sir. In 1952-53 and 53-54, the foundry earned a profit of Rs. 2,116 and 28,749 respectively. In 1954-55, there was a loss of Rs. 94,713. In 1955-56, it is expected that there will be no loss but some profit.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Is it a fact that on account of the high cost of production, of some of the parts in Nahan Foundry they are not able to compete in the local market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If I know the precise part, I may be able to attempt an answer.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Sarovar Pumps.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sarovar Pumps?

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: God alone knows what language this is: whether it is Indian or English. The hon. Minister, if he is able to comprehend this, may give an answer.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will endeavour to furnish an answer.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know whether the Ministry has found out any advantage, natural or otherwise in having this foundry high up in the mountains and if they did not find any such thing, is there any proposal to hand it over either to the Punjab Government or the Himachal Pradesh Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have not applied their mind to this aspect of the problem whether there is any advantage or not.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether the managing staff has increased after it was taken over by the Government or decreased?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it the suggestion that the loss is due to increase in staff?

Shri Boovaraghasamy: There are several other things.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have a fair amount of information about the Nahan Foundry here with me. But, I have no information about the state of the staff.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if the hon. Minister and the Government are satisfied with the management as it is being run today or whether they contemplate any reform or modification of the system at Nahan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have reason to believe that the foundry is not working satisfactorily. That is no reflection on the management. A committee was appointed by my colleague the Minister for Production. It has submitted a report. The report of the committee is now under consideration.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it was a completely unanimous report or there are two reports, and which is the majority report?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is proposed that when the Government come to their own conclusions, a Resolution will be issued and naturally the report of the Committee will

be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. It will be a little premature for me to answer this question at the present moment.

STATIONERY DEPOT

***129. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 9 on the 21st November, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the proposed regional stationery depot has been set up in Delhi;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the place of its location; and

(d) the nature of the staff appointed for the Delhi Depot?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir. The building for the depot is under construction.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Factory Road, New Delhi.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know which area will be benefited by the establishment of the regional depot?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Mainly the requirements of Delhi.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know by the establishment of how many regional depots the congestion at Calcutta will go away?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The departmental committee which had been appointed to look into this had recommended the establishment of three regional depots at Delhi, Bombay and Madras. The Delhi depot is proposed to be started as soon as the building is complete. Thereafter the question will be examined as to whether the other depots at Bombay and Madras should or should not be started.