

(b) If so, to what extent and in which State or States?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**

(a) and (b). The control over price and distribution of cloth was removed with effect from the 10th July, 1953. Control by the Central Government has been retained over the movement of cloth from Bombay and Ahmedabad producing centres; and to a small extent on production. The State Governments, however, under powers delegated to them under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, are retaining the control on the licensing of dealers in their own States.

#### HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

**\*185. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the interim marketing scheme proposed by the All-India Handloom Board to encourage handloom industry, has been implemented?

(b) If so, how far has it helped in widening the markets for handloom industry in the country?

(c) How far has the position of the handloom stocks in the country eased in 1953 as compared to 1952?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**

(a) The Central Marketing Organisation at Madras and Regional Offices at Madras, Bombay and Benaras have been set up. Three more Regional Offices at Nagpur, Gwalior and Calcutta are expected to be set up shortly.

(b) and (c). It is too early to assess the results of the Internal Marketing Scheme. From the reports received about the quantities of yarn lifted by the State Governments, it appears that the position of accumulations of handloom cloth in the country is easier than it was in 1952.

#### HIRAKUD AND BHAKRA NANGAL

**\*186. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a), whether Government have any concrete plans for the utilisation of electricity generated by the power plants at Hirakud and Bhakra Nangal; and

(b) if so, what are the plans?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):**

(a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 38.]

#### SALT CESS

**\*187. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alkali industries are demanding exemption from the payment of cess on salt; and

(b) if so, the decision Government have taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Yes.

(b) Government's decision is that at present there is no case for exempting the Alkali industries from the payment of the cess. The position of the industry which is a protected one will be considered again in due course by the Tariff Commission and the question of exemption from salt cess will in this connection be reviewed by Government at the appropriate stage.

#### PRIVY PURSES OF PRINCES

**\*188.** { **Shri N. M. Lingam:**  
**Shri Gidwanl:**  
**Seth Achal Singh:**  
**Shri Balmiki:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the replies given to starred question No. 351 asked on the 27th November, 1953, and state:

(a) whether replies have been received from all the princes to whom