

(b) the steps taken or being taken to exploit those deposits for supply in India?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Rock salt deposits are found in Guma, Drang and Maigal in Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) Rock salt to the extent of more than 1½ lakh maunds per annum is already being mined at those sources, its principal markets being the hilly tracts within Himachal Pradesh and to a small extent the Kangra district of the Punjab and parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Work has already started on a scheme to develop the Mandi Mines on modern lines. Drilling operations to determine the extent of deposits are now under way.

RUBBER PRICES

29. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what was the difference between the control price of rubber in India and the current price of rubber in the World market during the month of January, 1953?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The controlled price of rubber in India is Rs. 138 per 100 lbs. of Group I rubber F.O.B. Cochin. The prices of the same quality in the Singapore Market during January 1953 were as follows:

		Rs.
Week ending	2-1-1953	145/14/-
	9-1-1953	144/3/-
	16-1-1953	137/8/-
	23-1-1953	131/-
	30-1-1953	132/13/-

JAPANESE SULPHUR

30. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the names of the firms who have refused to lift their quota of high-priced Japanese sulphur?

(b) What action do Government propose to take against these firms?

(c) What action do Government propose to take to compensate those firms who have lifted their quotas of high-priced Japanese sulphur?

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

(a) to (c). About 4000 tons of sulphur from Japan were allocated to different industrial units during quarters II and III of 1952. The allotment in quarter II was fully taken up, but in quarter III, many consumers declined the allotment either because their stock position was satisfactory, or because it would have been uneconomic for them to use the high-priced sulphur from Japan. The number of such firms was about 65. As the allotment was not a compulsory one and as other firms were willing and anxious to take up the allotment which they refused, no question of taking action against such firms arises nor can there be any question of Government compensating firms who accepted the quota allotted to them. Government consider that it will not be in the public interest to indicate the names of individual firms who, for one reason or another, were unable to accept the allocation of sulphur made to them.