

years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 (April 1952 to January 1953) is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 15]

Separate figures for books are not available. Statistics of quantity are being maintained in cwts. and not in numbers.

SALT PRODUCTION IN PROPOSED ANDHRA STATE

1041. Shri Nanadas: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the salt producing centres in the proposed Andhra State?

(b) What was the total production of salt in the area comprising the proposed Andhra State during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(c) Is that area self-sufficient or surplus in salt?

(d) What was the surplus, if any, in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement showing the location of licensed salt factories likely to be included in the proposed Andhra State is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 16.]

(b) The total estimated production was as under.

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1950 | 67 lakh mds. |
| 1951 | 71 lakh mds. |
| 1952 | ... 55.5 lakh mds. |

The fall in production during 1952 was due to adverse whether conditions, including a severe cyclone.

(c) Under normal weather conditions that area will be surplus in salt.

(d) The surplus amounted to about 12 lakh mds. in 1950 and 14 lakh mds. in 1951. The estimated surplus in 1952 was negligible.

STORE PURCHASE POLICY

1042. Shri Bansal: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay on the Table of the House the rules followed by Government in regard to their store purchase policy, and state whether there are any proposals under consideration for revising these rules so as to give a greater degree of price preference to indigenous manufacturers than is done at present?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): A copy of the 'Rules for the supply of articles required to be pur-

chased for the public service' in India is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 17.]

These Rules were promulgated with the late Department of Industries and Labour Resolution No. S-217 dated the 12th December 1929 and are still in force. These Rules provide for preference generally and limited price preference in respect of articles produced or manufactured in India either wholly or in part and while placing orders effect is given to the policy enunciated therein.

Government of India have recently appointed a Stores Purchase Committee to examine the working of the Central Stores Purchase Organisation in India. Its terms of reference include an examination of the working of the stores purchasing system in relation to assistance to articles of Indian manufacture and encouragement to small-scale and cottage industries. The question of revision of the Rules will be taken up to the extent necessary after the recommendations of the Stores Purchase Committee have been considered by Government.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

1043. Shri Bansal: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay statements on the Table of the House showing:—

(i) the purchases made by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals during each of the financial years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(ii) the purchases made by the Indian Stores Department, London, in respect of the above three financial years;

(iii) the purchases made by the India Supply Mission, Washington, during the said period; and

(iv) what percentage the purchases made through indigenous sources, constitute of the total purchases made?

(b) Have Government any proposal under consideration for giving full details of the purchases to be made by the Government of India, State Governments, quasi-public bodies, Railways, Defence Services and different National Projects so as to give indigenous manufacturers an idea of the lines on which they could initiate expansion of existing units or development of new ones?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) A statement giving the