

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know, Sir, if the hon. Member has any particular unit in mind. Maybe that in a particular unit some such thing might be possible—not generally.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I wish to raise a point of order. The answer given to this question is rather evasive. I wish to know why it is so when the question has been admitted by the Chair.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is of a very general character. Hon. Members should appreciate that question-hour is not devoted to a discussion of matters of policy. It is meant solely to elicit information from Government, information which is not available in books, charts, periodicals, bulletins, etc. A question of a general nature will only elicit reply of a general nature.

Shri Punnoose: The hon. Minister stated that forty is too high a number in his view. May I know the figure he has and the number of workers involved?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice? Sir.

PRODUCTION OF ROCK SALT

*938. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what efforts the Government are making to increase the production of rock salt in India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): The only rock salt sources in India are in the Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh. The present production is about 6,000 tons per annum, and is not of the requisite standard of purity. A scheme for the development of the mines to produce 66,000 tons of refined salt per annum by adopting wet mining methods was submitted to Government by a Swiss Firm, and has been included in the Five Year Plan. Core drilling operations are now in progress at Mandi to estimate the extent of salt deposits. The Scheme will be taken up for im-

plementation when the results of the core drilling are known.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, how far the committee set up for prospecting rock salt in the Mandi area has made progress? I think, Sir, the same answer was given to me last time also.

Shri R. G. Dubey: On a previous occasion the position was explained. There is no committee as such set up for this purpose. The Associated Drilling and Supply Company, of which Bird and Co. are the principal agents in India have undertaken the boring operations in this area. But unfortunately, Government have come across certain difficulties which, if you would permit, I shall explain to the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall not allow it; the hon. Parliamentary Secretary will please circulate a memorandum.

Shri R. G. Dubey: In 1952 December.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whenever any Minister wants to explain a point elaborately, he will kindly pass on a note which I will circulate to hon. Members of the House. That would be better.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that there are a large number of consumers in India who are habituated to taking rock salt, what efforts Government are making to improve the supply position of rock salt?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Now the position is like this. There have been some difficulties regarding boring operations, because the standard machinery used for boring operations was found to be inadequate for the purpose because of the particular nature of the rock salt. So, Government have been in consultation with a Swiss firm, as well as the Associated Drilling and Supply Company regarding further steps. Now it is the rainy season. After the monsoon is over this matter will be again gone into.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): May I point out, Sir, that some years back a certain section of the people of India were used only to rock salt. During the last three or four years their habits have changed and they have reconciled themselves to the use of our modern refined salt and there is no necessity, we find, to revive the taste again for that rock salt to which they were accustomed before.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that rock salt is necessary for the preparation of certain Ayurvedic medicines and also medicinal preparations of other indigenous systems of medicine and that owing to non-availability of the required quantity of rock salt, the prices of rock salt in Calcutta and other places have shot up 18 to 25 times?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Government have not received any such complaints.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the percentage of sodium chloride in unrefined rock salt as found in India?

Shri R. G. Dubey: In the Mandi rock salt sodium chloride content is 80 per cent. whereas in the Kewera range it was about 90 to 98 per cent.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the Salt Control Order of Himachal Pradesh has been removed and what is the recommendation of the Commodity Control Committee in the matter?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I do not believe there is any Salt Control Order there.

Shri Achuthan: Is it worthwhile for Government....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No opinions will be asked on the floor of the House.

Shri Achuthan: Have Government considered the desirability or the necessity of launching upon this expensive experiment for the manufacture of rock salt when we have enough of sea salt at our disposal?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Government have to consider the intense feeling in cer-

tain sections of the people of the North for rock salt. All the same Government find that people are becoming accustomed to the use of other salt.

Shri Damodara Menon: What are the reasons for the decision that it is not necessary now to revive the taste for rock salt?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already answered it. Sea salt is cheaper, rock salt is difficult to get.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister stated that there is plenty of rock salt deposits in the country. He has not stated that if we take steps to see that rock salt is produced in large quantities it will not be cheaper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not entering into a discussion.

Shri Damodara Menon: He simply stated there is no necessity to revive the taste for rock salt now: some reason must be given for it.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I explain, Sir? The simple reason is that we have not got the necessary quantity of rock salt in our country at present. We were importing rock salt from Pakistan at very fantastic prices. We had to put a stop to it owing to our exchange and monetary position. That is why we do not want to revive the taste for rock salt at present. The people who were used to rock salt have now reconciled themselves to using Sambhar salt or salt of that type. But that does not mean that we should put a stop to mining rock salt wherever it is available. Government are taking step to produce rock salt in our country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Raghaviah: Sir, you had asked me to put a question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did. But all the questions have been sufficiently thrashed out.

Shri Raghaviah: There is one question which has not been thrashed out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Maybe, but I am not going to spend more time on this question.

LIP-STICKS (IMPORT)

*939. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of customs duty realized by Government on the import of lip-sticks into India; and

(b) from which countries these are imported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Separate statistics for lip-sticks are not maintained.

(b) Largely from the U.K. and France.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know if the consumption of this article of luxury is on the increase or decrease?

Shri Karmarkar: It depends upon how much we are importing, less or more.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the necessity for the import of lip-sticks and whether Government fear any opposition from the fair sex if they stop its import?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we getting into the reasons for the import of every article? It is a luxury article.

Hon. Members will elicit answers and get facts. There is no question of asking for opinion.

Shri Dabhi: I asked the necessity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Necessity is a matter of opinion. We are not only getting on with necessities but with luxuries also.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Is there any concern in India manufacturing lip-sticks?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, not to our knowledge.

श्री जांगड़े: क्या यह सही नहीं है कि पंजाब और दिल्ली प्रान्तों में लिप-स्टिक का ज्यादा प्रयोग होता है ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय: सारे हिन्दुस्तान में होता है ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any substitutes have been found out by our Government and whether any attempt has been made in this direction?

Shri Karmarkar: Perhaps *pan* would serve the purpose well.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

*940. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether any progress has been made to set up an authority between the Secretariat departments and the district officers for co-ordination and supervision of district programmes of work under the Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The necessary information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House when it becomes available.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know whether it will be an official or a non-official body?

Shri Hathi: The recommendations in this respect are contained in Chapter VII of the Planning Commission's Report. What is envisaged is an official who would supervise the progress of the Plan and also, at the village level and district level, non-official bodies.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether this authority will take into confidence the people of the villages in executing the Plan?

Shri Hathi: As I mentioned, it is envisaged that right from the gram panchayat there will be a continuous system of co-ordination, development and execution. At the *gram panchayat* level it will be the villagers who will have complete voice in planning and