

(b) and (c). Under the general scheme of financial assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Rehabilitation State Governments have been authorised to grant stipends to deserving displaced students reading in recognised schools. It appears that the Manipur Government has not operated the scheme so far. They are being asked to extend these facilities to deserving students.

ROCK SALT (IMPORT)

*1061. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the conditions and restrictions if any, regulating the import into India of rock salt from West Pakistan?

(b) Are the Government of Pakistan willing to export rock salt to India on barter basis or otherwise?

(c) If not, are the Government of India intending to negotiate therefor with the Government of Pakistan?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). India became self-sufficient in salt in 1951. Since then, our production has continued to be and is still on the increase with the result that our problem for some time past has been to find foreign markets for our exportable surplus which during this year is expected to mount up to a little less than two crore maunds. In these circumstances, to permit imports of salt will be highly detrimental to the indigenous salt industry apart from wasting foreign exchange on unnecessary imports. In regard to rock salt, Government are satisfied, on expert advice, that refined salt, which is available in sufficient quantities, is as good as rock salt for all purposes. Government have accordingly decided that it is neither necessary nor in the national interest to permit imports of any type of salt from any country.

MESSRS. LEVER BROTHERS (INDIA) LTD.

*1062. **Shri K. K. Basu:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether permission has been granted to

Messrs. Lever Brothers (India) Ltd., for developing its manufacturing unit to increase its production?

(b) What will be the total increased production?

(c) What will be the effect on the existing production capacity?

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

(a) An application was received about the middle of 1951 from this firm for the installation of a continuous process plant which would result *inter alia* in increased production of Glycerine. No decision has as yet been reached on this application.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

*1064. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons of Indian origin have suffered in any way during the recent disturbances that took place in Ceylon; and

(b) if so, what is the nature and extent of loss suffered by them?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Three shops in Colombo belonging to Indians were looted.

(b) The loss is roughly estimated at about a lakh of rupees.

रुई (आयात)

*१०६५. श्री आर० एस० तिवारी: क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या अमेरिकन रुई के आयात के लिये १९५३-५४ के लिये पहिले से अधिक अनुमत्तियां दी गई हैं।

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No licences are being issued at present for the import of American cotton during 1953-54.