

(b) the total number of tea chests (full and half size, separately) consumed in tea plantations in India;

(c) the quantity out of that referred to in part (b) above drawn from plywood factories in India for the years indicated in part (a) above; and

(d) the quantity supplied by each indigenous plywood factory?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The total production of tea chests by the approved plywood factories in India during the calendar years 1952 and 1953 was 4.82 million sets and 3.17 million sets respectively. Separate figures for full size and half size chests are not available.

(b) On the basis of tea crop production in India during the years 1952 and 1953, it is estimated that the total number of tea chests consumed by the tea plantations during these years was roughly 5.4 and 5.3 million sets respectively.

(c) About 4.36 million and 2.97 million chests respectively during the years 1952 and 1953 from approved factories.

(d) Precise information is not readily available.

SALT

147. { **Shri Dabhi:**
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and extent of the control on the production, movement and sale of salt in the country; and

(b) the present prices at which salt is sold in different Part 'A' States and Delhi as compared to the prices when the salt duty was in force?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and the Rules made thereunder the production or manufacture of salt is subject to the terms and conditions of licence to

be granted by the Salt Commissioner. The manufacture of salt by an individual or group of individuals in areas of 10 acres or less is, however, at present, exempt from licence. This exemption will be limited to areas of 2½ acres and less from 1st March, 1955.

Control on the movement of salt is exercised by the Central Government to a limited extent by ensuring that the salt moving under the Zonal Scheme drawn up by the Central Government under Section 27(A) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, enjoys "preferential traffic". There is no restriction otherwise on the movement of salt from the sources of production by road, river, ordinary rail traffic or any other mode of transport.

Sale of salt is not controlled by the Central Government but some State Governments exercise control of sale by distribution and price controls.

A list showing the different types of Controls over salt exercised by the States is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 60.]

(b) A statement giving the desired information is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 60.]

CLOTH EXPORT TO PAKISTAN

148. { **Shri G. P. Sinha:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of bales of cloth which have been sent to Pakistan in 1953-54 as far as information is available?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): 13,25,000 yards of cotton piecegoods of the value of Rs. 10,64,000 have been exported to Pakistan between April, 1953 up to the end of January, 1954.

RUBBER TYRES

149. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the firms manufacturing pneumatic tyres in India?