

of All India Radio during the Radio Month;

(b) if so, their number and their nature;

(c) how many dramas were staged outside the Studios and how many in the Studios; and

(d) how many outside artistes participated in these dramas?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tiruchirapalli Station broadcast 18 plays out of which one was a radio version of a classical opera, another a portrayal of Tamil life through classics and the remaining sixteen were based on social themes. Madras Station broadcast 29 plays out of which 17 were originated and 12 relayed from appropriate regional stations. These plays covered mythological, historical, cultural and social subjects.

(c) Tiruchirapalli broadcast one play from studios and seventeen plays from outside. Out of 17 originated plays, Madras broadcast thirteen from studios and four from outside.

(d) The number of outside artistes participating in these dramas at Tiruchirapalli was fifty-nine. The number of outside artistes who participated in the originated plays from Madras Station was one hundred and twenty-eight.

CHINA CLAY FACTORY

30. Shri G. L. Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big and small China-clay factories in India;

(b) their annual production; and

(c) the kind of articles they are producing?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I take it that the hon. Member is referring to the Ceramic factories. Based on this assumption the answer is as follows:

(a) Big factories (i.e. those employing more than 20 workers) ... 42
Small factories ... 25.

(b) 47,905 tons in 1953.

(c) The more important items are Crockery, Sanitary-Ware, Glazed Tiles, L.T. and H.T. Insulators, Jars Containers and Pipes.

SCHEDULED CASTE EMPLOYEES IN A.I.R.

31. Shri G. L. Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste employees working in the various Stations of the All India Radio; and

(b) how many of them are class IV employees?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

IODINE SALT

32. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iodine salt produced in the country in the year 1953-54 and the quantity imported in the same year; and

(b) the number of factories engaged in its production in the country at present?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Some quantities of salt are being iodised by the Governments of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh but the exact quantity of salt iodised by these two Governments in 1953-54 is not readily available.

There has been no import of iodised salt in the country in 1953-54.

(b) There are at present no factories in India engaged in the production of iodised Salt. The Punjab and Uttar Pradesh Governments are understood to be iodising salt by manual methods.