

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The sanction issued in September did not apply to the work-charged staff of the C.P.W.D. but it has since been extended to them.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the Government are aware of the deep-seated discontent amongst these workers of the Central Government working in Assam because of this discriminatory treatment meted out to them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have already stated in my answer that this concession has been extended to the work-charged staff also. The work-charged staff are excluded from this local allowance due to the fact that they are locally recruited. But we have felt that it is not a just attitude and, therefore, we took up the matter with Finance. Recently orders have been issued giving the same facilities and allowances to the work-charged staff also.

International Atomic Agency

*934. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered to supply thorium to the International Atomic Energy Agency; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The International Atomic Energy Agency have been informed that Government are prepared to arrange, on conditions to be agreed between them, for the supply of thorium in the form of a suitable compound or metal. As the supplies to the Agency will have to be made from current production and not from any stockpile now in existence, adequate notice of the Agency's requirements has been asked for in order to permit appropriate planning

of production schedules. The quantities to be supplied and the schedule of delivery will be determined only after the Agency's requirements are known. There has been an exchange of correspondence with the Director General of the Agency, and details have not yet been finalised.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know if any Indian will have the facility of working or getting training in this International Atomic Agency?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot understand that question. The International Atomic Agency is an office, an international office where various countries have their representatives; our country too. They do not dig for atomic energy there or prepare it. It is an office, an agency. The work is done in different countries. There are plenty of Indians working in India, and Indians are important members in the International Agency.

Shri Kasliwal: The hon. Prime Minister was pleased to mention that he has offered to supply thorium to this agency. May I know whether any other special fissionable material has been offered to be deposited with this agency?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: By other countries?

Shri Kasliwal: By India—any special fissionable material.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. The only thing we have offered is thorium, because we possess large quantities of it. We do not possess large quantities of the other things. Therefore, we do not offer them.

Mandi Rock Salt Mines

*935. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
 { **Shri Padam Dev:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 47 on the 11th February, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the drilling operations in the Mandi Rock Mines have been completed;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up a factory at Jogindranagar for the preparation of this salt during the Second Plan period; and

(c) when the work will commence?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Core drilling operations for exploratory purposes were completed in June 1955 and the sinking of two shafts is now in progress for dry mining of salt at these mines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether, in view of the fact that this is the only rock salt mine, the Government propose to work it out and take up the machinery at Jogindranagar and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present drilling operations are precisely for the purpose which the hon. Member has mentioned. We expect that after two years, when this is completed, the production will increase from 1-lakh maunds to 4-lakh maunds.

Shri Y. S. Parmar: May I know whether it is not a fact that there is scarcity at present owing to the lack of availability of rock salt in Mandi and the price has risen from Rs 2 to Rs. 8 or Rs. 10?

Shri Manubhai Shah: After partition, there has been always a little scarcity of this particular type of salt and that is why the Government for the last several years have been taking this step. As a result of the drilling operations, we are quite sure that the country's requirements of this particular salt will be more than satisfied.

Shri Y. S. Parmar: May I know whether the Government is considering the possibility of raising the quota of rock salt of Mandi in particular?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Not at the moment, because, after all, the production is almost at 1,25,000 maunds. As soon as the drilling operations succeed and we are able to get more out of the core drilling and shafting, we will increase the allocation certainly.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि इस साल्ट का जो कंट्रोल रेट है वह दो रुपये और कुछ घाने मन है जब कि यह घाट रुपये मन के हिसाब से बिक रहा है ? क्या इसके बारे में कोई कार्रवाई की गई है ?

श्री मनुमाई शाह : यही बात अभी एक मंत्री साहब ने कही थी जिसको कि मानरेबल मंत्री ने दोहरा दिया है। मैंने यह कहा है कि जब इस चीज का ज्यादा उत्पादन हो जायेगा तो जो प्राइस है वह अपने आप स्टेबलाइज हो जायेगी।

जहां पर हमें इस तरह की बात का पता चलता है हम और माल्ट लेकर उम इलाके में पहुंचा देने हैं।

Match Industry

*938. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the number of workers employed in the cottage sector and the number of workers employed in the power sector of the Match Industry at present;

(b) what is the total production in power sector and in cottage sector separately from the 15th May, 1957 till end of January, 1958; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the production in the power sector?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No accurate statistics are available about the number of workers employed in the cottage sector. The number of workers employed in the power sector is 8330.