

(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 श्री 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.

(b) The production in the power and cottage sector during the period 15th May 1957 to 31st January 1958 was 14 million in the organised sector and 11.2 million gross boxes in the decentralised sector.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether a representation was received from the South Indian Swadeshi Match Factories Association at Sathur, saying that after the introduction of the new taxes, the production in the power sector has increased?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is quite the contrary. As a matter of fact, as a result of the Government policy, the large-scale sector has shrunk and the entire production gradually is shifting towards the decentralised sector. The House will be glad to know that in the B, C and D class, production has increased by almost 60 per cent., and it has stagnated more or less in the centralised sector. It is true that a representation was received and as a result of that we have permitted them now, from the 1st March onwards, to have two packings, besides one of 60s and another of 40s, over and above them.—one of 30s and another of 50s.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government are aware of a press note appearing in some of the Mudras papers that nearly 65 per cent. of the total production is in the power sector and only 35 per cent. in the cottage industries sector, pertaining to B, C and D classes?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not correct. I have mentioned the figures to the hon. Member. It is almost 50—50 between the two sectors, and if the small sector is growing rapidly, the larger sector, that is, the organised sector, is almost getting stagnant.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the small-scale sector, that is, the cottage sector is suffering in Sathur, Koilpatti and Sivakasi, even A, B and C classes—may I know whether

the Government will take into consideration the representation made not only by the South Indian Swadeshi Match Factories Association but also by the Sivakasi Chamber of Match Factories who said that production in 120 factories, during this period, has gone down nearly by 50 per cent?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Actually, the representatives came here and we met them and discussed the matter threadbare. One of their main requests was to allow them two new packings of 30s and 50s. It was conceded and other demands also are being looked into. I can assure the hon. Member and this House that the Government is wedded to the scheme of decentralisation, particularly in regard to the promotion of small-scale and cottage industries.

**Athertan West and Company Ltd.,
Kanpur**

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*940. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Sarju Pandey:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Athertan West and Company Limited, Kanpur has introduced increased workload in its weaving shed under the threat of closure;

(b) if so, whether they have notified this change before-hand; and

(c) if not, what action is likely to be taken against them?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) to (c). It is understood that the management in consultation with the workers have made certain changes in working to avoid closure.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the Soothi Mill Mazdoor Sabha, which is the representative body of the particular union, has not been consulted at all in this