

May I know whether it is not possible to integrate the two Boards and lessen the personnel?

Shri Karmarkar: We set up two Boards because we thought it necessary.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether there is any representative of the Hand-loom Weavers' Association in the Hand-loom Board?

Shri Karmarkar: The Board was constituted not with a view to giving any representation to particular bodies. We selected the members, competent persons in our opinion, who could promote the cause of hand-loom and my hon. friend will find that some of them are connected with hand-loom work.

Shri Raghavaiah: From the statement I find all these experts are only servants of the Government of India and not the representatives of any of the Hand-loom Weavers' Associations.

Shri Karmarkar: If my hon. friend will carefully study the personnel he will doubtless find that some among the non-official workers do know a lot about the hand-loom industry.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we entering into a debate here on the hand-loom industry? Questions must be put for the purpose of eliciting information. The hon. Member wants to convince the hon. Minister that there is nobody to represent the Weavers' Associations. The hon. Minister does not agree.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether any heavy export duty is placed on the cottage industry goods?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Tariff schedule will give this. Whether it is heavy or light is a different matter and it is for the hon. Member to compare whether it is heavy or light.

Shri Velayudhan: I want to know about it, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is fully aware that all the information that is available in printed books, leaflets etc. ought not to be put as questions on the floor of the House.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I said that the Government want to encourage and not to discourage the hand-loom products and hand-made goods. We do not, therefore propose to impose any export duty

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what steps Government have taken so far with a view to improve the technical processes of these small scale industries?

Shri Karmarkar: There was a scheme under consideration to set up an institute at Babuaganj. Doubtless the new Board will pursue the matter. Of course, that is one of the objects.

Shri Raghavaiah: In the statement it is said that for the development of the cottage industries and hand-loom industries, one of the methods is the reservation of spheres of production. As a result of that reservation by the Government of India, will not the workers in the large-scale industry be thrown out of employment?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, if as a result of the reservation in favour of the small scale industry some of the workers are thrown out of employment, the Government would not mind it in the interests of the small scale industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot have the cake and eat it too.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government proposes to have the representatives of these industries concerned on this Board?

Shri Karmarkar: We do not look at it from that point of view. We have an over-all idea of the thing and in fixing up the personnel we do consider as to how best the industry would be served and doubtless one of the considerations is to have on the Boards persons who are competent to discharge their duties to the small scale industries and help them.

SALT

*1061. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the steps being taken to improve the quality of salt produced in India?

(b) Which of the States have recommended the abolition of distribution by nominee system and how has that recommendation been considered by Government?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The quality of salt can be improved by the adoption of scientific methods of production, including the realignment of pans with a view to maintenance of a proper ratio between the areas of condensers

and crystallisers. The Salt Department is giving technical advice to private manufacturers, and runs a model factory at Wadala in Bombay, to demonstrate the value of modern methods of manufacture, and a scientific layout of factories. Another model factory will shortly be established at Tuticorin. A minimum standard of sodium chloride content for edible salt is prescribed each year, and is being raised gradually from year to year, so as to attain ultimately the standard of 96 per cent. recommended by the Indian Standards Institution. Laboratories have been established in all the producing regions, to test the quality of salt produced by manufacturers, and the Salt Department enforces the prescribed standard by banning the issue of sub-standard salt for edible purposes. The opening of more model factories and test laboratories is under consideration. A Central Salt Research Station is also being set up at Bhavnagar in Saurashtra, under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, to investigate problems connected with salt.

(b) None of the States in which the nominee system of distribution prevails has recommended its abolition.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, how long will it take to reach the maximum standard laid down by the Indian Standards Institute?

Shri K. C. Reddy: This year the percentage is fixed at 94; next year it will be 95 or 96 per cent. Anyway in three years it is hoped to attain the standard fixed by the Indian Standards Institute.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, in the case of those States where the nominee system does not prevail, whether those States have been recommended the adoption of that system?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, we did not ask such of those States who have not adopted the nominee system to say whether they will go in for that system.

Shri Nanadas: What are the concrete steps taken by Government to improve the quality of salt in the eastern districts of Madras State?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The reply that I gave applies to all the salt-producing regions in the whole of India.

Shri Raghavaiah: From the answer given by the hon. Minister it is clear

that technical assistance is given to producers of salt, but I have made enquiries and I have been told that no technical assistance is given. May I know whether it is really a fact that technicians have been appointed to advise the producers of salt in the matter of increasing the production and also the sodium chloride content of the salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member is suggesting that we should appoint technicians for this purpose. I have replied that we have established model stations. We have established test laboratories also. We intend having a salt research station at Bhavnagar. These are the steps that Government have taken. If the hon. Member's suggestion is that technicians as such should be employed in larger numbers, I can only say that it will be considered.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I know what is the percentage of dirt in the salt supplied by the manufacturers in the South from the Bombay and Madras States?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Salt according to what samples? In what regions? In what places? Without knowing the answer to all these questions, I cannot say what is the percentage of dirt.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether in regard to the salt-producing centres in the South time will be given in cases where the percentage of dirt is not according to the required standard, so that the salt industry will have an opportunity to adjust itself, and so that the industry may not be completely destroyed?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Time has been given. The percentage fixed for last year was 94 per cent. We reduced it to 93 per cent. with a view to giving time to the salt industry to adjust itself. In fact, the suggestion thrown out by the hon. Member has already been followed by the Ministry.

Shri Raghavaiah: Are Government aware that no technical assistance is given to the salt producers in spite of the fact that the hon. Minister has instructed the different State Governments to do so?

Shri K. C. Reddy rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this general question about? I would only inform the hon. Member that the hon. Minister has already said that all that has been provided. If in any individual case advice has been sought

and it has not been provided, then that case may be taken up with the hon. Minister. There must be complaints, but whether such and such a complaint has been there or not, and whether it has been enquired into or not.—these are too general questions. At least two such questions have been asked already.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I may add that Government have in view the starting of some more model factories; for example, one in Travancore; one in Orissa; one in Madras; and others in other areas. Government are considering a bigger plan for this very purpose of giving more and more technical advice to the salt industry, and in course of time I feel that even the hon. Member who put the question will be satisfied with the work that they have been able to do.

Shri Raghavaiah: Is there one such model factory in Andhra?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It will be considered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what substantial progress has been made during the last year due to the technical knowledge given to the salt producers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The quality of salt is improving gradually.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are administrative reports. Hon. Members may read them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the number of model farms, and also may I know how the information which is gathered from these model farms is disseminated to the salt producers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I thought I had answered this question. There is a model farm at Wadala in Bombay, and then a model farm will be established in Tuticorin shortly. As I have said already, there are proposals to have a few more model farms and the work that is done in these farms will radiate and be disseminated.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But how?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Through the usual processes.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would like to know what those usual processes are.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

● DEVELOPMENT OF UNDEVELOPED STATES

*1062. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what steps Government propose

to take to develop the undeveloped States like Assam, Orissa, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc. and to bring them at par with the most developed States of India?

(b) What additional amounts have been provided to develop these States?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The problem of developing undeveloped States has to be dealt with in stages. Sometimes the non-developmental expenditure, such as strengthening the administration, is a prerequisite for stepping up the development expenditure. In determining the extent of the Central assistance to a State under the National Plan, the resources which can be raised internally as well as commitments in regard to continuing schemes are invariably taken into account. Moreover, there are certain schemes predominantly financed by the Central Government which benefit the undeveloped States.

(b) Amount provided for the development programmes of the various States are shown in the Five Year Plan.

Shri Beli Ram Das: What is the basis for the allotment of development schemes to these States? Is it done on the basis of population and area?

Shri Hathi: Not necessarily on the basis of population and area.

Shri Beli Ram Das: In making the allotments, is the backwardness of the State concerned taken into consideration?

Shri Hathi: That is one of the factors.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What are the reasons, why the Planning Ministry has paid more and more attention in providing measures for more and more development to the more developed States and less and less to the less developed States?

Shri Hathi: That seems to be an inference.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Arising out of the reply to part (a), may I know why certain States have been excluded from such development work where resources exist to a great extent?

Shri Hathi: There are different items for different States.

Shri Raghavachari: May I know what are the items in which the Centre is prepared to aid the States?