

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What was the total value and number of the licences issued?

**Shri Karmarkar:** During 1951, 988 licences were issued and their value was Rs. 25-74 crores.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know whether the articles imported under these licences are not produced in our own country?

**Shri Karmarkar:** That is so, Sir.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know if there is any proposal to import capital plants which will produce the electrical goods required by us in India?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

#### LICENCES FOR SALT FACTORIES

\*741. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether any licenses for setting up new factories for the manufacture of salt were granted during the year 1951-52;

(b) if so, how many and for what places; and

(c) what was the quantity of salt produced by unlicensed small manufacturers during the year 1951-52?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Yes.

(b) 53 licences were issued for the setting up of new salt works. A statement showing the places to which the new licences relate is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19.]

(c) 25 lakh maunds approximately.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What checks are there to enforce the quality of the salt that is produced in these unlicensed factories?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** With regard to unlicensed factories, I cannot say off-hand what is the exact machinery that exists. So far as licensed factories are concerned, the Salt Department takes good care to see that everything is done properly. I think there is a general sort of supervision in so far as unlicensed salt works are concerned, but as I said, I am not in a position to say now what exactly are the ways in detail by which the control is effected.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know if there is any compulsion on the facto-

ries producing salt to send in samples to the laboratories that are maintained for testing salt produced in India?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** That is a detail in regard to which I should like to have notice to answer.

**Shri Nana Dass:** May I know whether it is a fact that an individual salt producer manufacturing salt in an area less than 10 acres need not pay any salt duty at all, whereas an individual salt producer manufacturing salt in an area of the same size, if it be a co-operative organisation, has got to pay salt duty at the rate of four annas per bag; if so, what are the reasons for this disparity?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The reasons are obvious. The granting of permission to small salt manufacturers to produce salt without any licence, as the hon. Member may be aware, has its origin in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931. Since then the concessions have been liberalised and within an area of ten acres unlicensed salt manufacturers can go on producing salt. They need not pay any licence fee. But so far as others are concerned, they have to pay a nominal licence fee. This applies to co-operative societies, for example, to which the hon. Member referred.

#### NIGHT SHIFTS IN TEXTILE MILLS

\*742. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills in the country that gave notice to close night shifts during the period from March to April, 1952;

(b) the total number of workers that were thrown out of work due to the closing of night shifts; and

(c) how many of these mills were able to open night shifts again?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) to (c) 44 cotton textile mills threatened to close down their night shifts during the period March and April 1952. Out of this three mills closed and continue to remain closed so far affecting 575 workers. Two other mills closed down for a short period of about 25 days only and then resumed working. 585 workers were affected during this period. Other mills have either withdrawn or postponed closure notices.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether before giving notice of closure the mills are required to acquaint the Textile Commissioner with the situation with which they are faced?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** This is merely a question of closing down of one of the shifts. Subject to correction, I believe that the Textile Commissioner is kept informed of the intention of the closure. That is how we know about it.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the mills, before closing down the shifts, are required to take the approval of the Textile Commissioner?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Not so far as I am aware.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether the reason for the closing down of the shifts or for the giving of notice for closing down the shifts was extra production or the failure of the mills to distribute the goods produced in time and properly?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In the case of one mill, I think they anticipated shortage of coal supply. In the case of most of the other mills, roughly about 43 of them, the difficulty they faced was because of the slump. The offtake had slowed down. State nominees refused to lift the goods and the mills feared that further production at the same rate would lead to a lot of investment of capital which it would not be possible for them to clear in the near future. That is the reason why they issued those notices.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Was the failure of the State nominees to lift the goods due to the fact that they did not get the goods they wanted, or was it due to the fact they had no purchasing power and there was also no demand?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I think my hon. friend is right in assuming that both factors have operated, but today those factors have ceased to operate. The mills have not closed down. Goods are moving and we are merely discussing a thing which might have happened but has not happened luckily.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether any mill in South India, say in Madras, Coimbatore or Madurai, has threatened to close down or has already closed down?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** May I know whether Government have taken notice of the fact that the mills have closed down the shifts to create pressure and force the price of cloth to go up?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Not so far as we are aware.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether the Government have any machinery for verifying the reasons given by the mill owners for closing down the shifts?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** We are in close touch with the industry. In fact, it is our duty to see that mills are not closed and production is kept up. The Textile Commissioner has adequate machinery at his disposal to cover the contingency that the hon. Member has in mind.

D. V. C.

\*743. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Report) regarding the appointment of a Committee to investigate into the work done by the Rehabilitation and Development Department of the Damodar Valley Corporation, has been examined; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this respect?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) The recommendation is under examination of Government.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** May I know the progress made in regard to rehabilitation and development, and also whether the same is commensurate with the money expended on it?

**Shri Nanda:** This same question is under examination. I may inform the hon. Member that the expenditure on rehabilitation and development on 31st March, 1952 was Rs. 18 lakhs and 45 thousand.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** May I know the number of persons who have been uprooted as a result of the operation of this project and how many of these uprooted persons have so far been rehabilitated?

**Shri Nanda:** I require notice.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Is it a fact that many of the houses constructed gave way even before they were fit for occupation?

**Shri Nanda:** The whole question is under examination and as soon as that examination is over, the information will be supplied.