

(e) What steps, if any, have been taken to remove such discrimination in foreign companies located in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). At present, Government are collecting information regarding Indians and foreign nationals employed in foreign-owned or controlled undertakings.

(c) to (e). Government have received a few complaints alleging discriminatory treatment by foreign firms towards their Indian employees but it is difficult for Government to draw conclusions therefrom without further investigation.

SODIUM CHLORIDE IN EDIBLE SALT

***295. Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any minimum percentage of Sodium Chloride content for edible salt;

(b) if so, whether they have banned any factory showing less percentage so far;

(c) if so, which are the factories banned, and what is the quantity of salt so condemned;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps for the disposal of such salt and if so, what are they and what is the quantity of such salt so disposed of;

(e) whether Government have taken any expert opinion as to the minimum percentage required for edible salt and if so, who is the expert and what is his opinion;

(f) whether Government have made any arrangement for the manufacturers to find out the percentage of Sodium Chloride in salt or provided laboratories in all the factories to enable the manufacturers to find out the quality and if not, why not; and

(g) whether Government have got any proposal to collect establishment charges from the unlicensed manufacturers of salt?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes: 93 per cent. for 1952, which will be raised progressively to the minimum standard of 96 per cent.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement showing the quantities banned for sale for human consumption in respect of the different factories is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 14.]

(d) The sub-standard salt can be released for industrial purposes, but enquiries from various industries show that there is no demand for this salt as the quality of salt required by the industries is even higher than that prescribed for human consumption.

(e) The percentage of sodium chloride content for edible salt has been fixed by the Indian Standards Institution after consulting the salt industry.

(f) Test laboratories have been established in all the regions for the analysis of salt samples at Government expense.

(g) No.

SUBSIDY TO INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

***296. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount of subsidy paid to the Indian Standards Institution during 1950-51?

(b) What was the total budget of the Institution for that year?

(c) What is the composition of the Executive Committee?

(d) What use is made of the standards published by the Institution?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 2,20,000/-

(b) Budget Rs. 5,53,500-0-0 Actuals Rs. 4,00,994-13-6.

(c) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 15.]

(d) They are being made use of by manufacturers for marketing their products and consumers (which include purchasing departments of the Central and State Governments as well as Municipal bodies) for indenting their requirements.

PILGRIMAGE TO HEJAZ

***297. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India spend any amount of money by way of subsidy or otherwise in making arrangements for pilgrimage to Hejaz?

(b) If so, how much was spent during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The Government of India do