

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, in view of the severance of diplomatic relations between India and Portugal, what is the channel through which such things are taken up with Portugal? May I also enquire whether the hon. Parliamentary Secretary can give a more satisfactory answer with regards to the steps being taken?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I have already said that the Egyptian Embassy is looking after our friends in Goa. The Egyptian Legation in Portugal is dealing with this matter.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: The Parliamentary Secretary answering Mr. Kamath has said that he is not aware of any request made by the Goa Congress about the Red Cross. May I know whether the Government now propose to approach the International Red Cross to assist us in looking after our prisoners in Goa?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: That matter will be taken into consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Mr. Chaudhuri is able to get books from outside and whether he will be able to receive any book that we may send to him?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir.

SALT

*126. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the agency through which the salt manufactured at Sambar Lake is sold;

(b) the cost of production and its sale price;

(c) whether it is a fact that the salt is purchased at the rate of Rs. 2 per maund from the lessees of the land; and

(d) whether it is a fact that on account of the present distribution policy of Government large number of business community has been thrown out of business?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 41].

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know whether the Government is aware that Sambhar town whose main business is in salt gives a deserted appearance on account of the present distribution policy of the Government? May I know what steps the Government are going to take to rehabilitate these people and see that they are not deprived of their normal work?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have put a long statement on the Table which will give some information which the hon. Member wants. Government is trying to rehabilitate the Sambhar traders by providing a larger portion of business to them.

Shri Bansilal: May I know whether a similar question was tabled in the last session of the Lok Sabha and an assurance was given that steps would be taken to rehabilitate the traders of Sambhar? May I know what steps have been taken since then? May I also know how many recommendations of the Estimates Committee regarding salt have been put into action by the Government?

Shri Satish Chandra: The latter part of the question is very wide and if the hon. Member wants information.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may finish the first part.

Shri Satish Chandra: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, several State Governments have agreed to abolish the nominee system in their respective areas. To that extent, the volume of business has increased so far as the Sambhar traders are concerned.

Shri Bansilal: What is the position in the U. P.? Is it not a fact that Sambhar salt which goes to the U. P. is distributed through the nominee system even as yet?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is so distributed in many States because the states have lost confidence in the Sambhar traders on account of their past tactics in business.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know by when these Sambhar traders are likely to be rehabilitated according to the statement of hon. Deputy Minister?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is strictly speaking not a question of rehabilitation. Sambhar is a small town near the salt lake and most of the inhabitants carried on business in salt. On account of their activities during the days when supply position was acute, controls had to be introduced. They were thrown out of business. Gradually, they are being brought back into the business.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Radha Raman: One point, Sir. Before you pass to the next question, questions 127 and 136 are alike. If you could kindly have these two questions taken together, it will be convenient.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sure hon. Members have seen the bulletin regarding the manner in which questions are allowed. If an hon. Member tables three questions, all the questions are not printed together. Questions are allowed to be put with respect to particular Ministers. They may interlink one question with another. In order to avoid the same Member getting all the questions, one question is taken from each Member and in that order it is printed. After they are exhausted, other questions from the same Member are taken. Priority is given according to the time of notice. If every time I am asked to link up one question with another, that wholesome rule will disappear. Hon. Members will begin to complain. Anyhow, I have no objection to do it today.

Shri Radha Raman: It is only a request, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Question No. 136 may also be answered with Question No. 127. Shri G. L. Chaudhary absent. Much ado about nothing.

Shri Radha Raman: I am here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But, he is not a joint signatory to this. Has he got a general power of attorney?

NAHAN FOUNDRY LIMITED

***128, Shri Boovaraghasamy:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nahan Foundry Limited in Himachal Pradesh is working at a loss since it was taken over by Government; and

(b) if so, amount of loss during 1955-56?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). No. Sir. In 1952-53 and 53-54, the foundry earned a profit of Rs. 2,116 and 28,749 respectively. In 1954-55, there was a loss of Rs. 94,713. In 1955-56, it is expected that there will be no loss but some profit.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Is it a fact that on account of the high cost of production, of some of the parts in Nahan Foundry they are not able to compete in the local market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If I know the precise part, I may be able to attempt an answer.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Sarovar Pumps.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sarovar Pumps?

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: God alone knows what language this is: whether it is Indian or English. The hon. Minister, if he is able to comprehend this, may give an answer.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will endeavour to furnish an answer.