

tion lands on account of the Damodar Valley Projects;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to provide these people with facilities for organising cottage industries with electricity which is now available there; and

(c) whether Government have decided to supply electricity in this area at a cheap rate?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) About 60,000 persons would be affected by the Damodar Valley Project.

(b) Under the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, the overall development of the Damodar Valley, is the responsibility of the D.V.C. The Corporation have not yet formulated any scheme for organising cottage industries in the Damodar Valley area.

(c) Under the D.V.C. Act, 1948, the Corporation cannot undertake supply of electricity at pressures of less than 30,000 volts without the permission of the State Government concerned. The detailed distribution of electricity is a matter for the State Governments concerned.

ISSUE OF ADVERTISEMENTS

1454. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the policy and procedure adopted by the Central Government in giving advertisements to newspapers;

(b) whether the resolutions passed by the Standing Committee of the AINEC have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, what action was taken by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The policy regarding giving advertisements to newspapers is under consideration of Government.

(b) and (c). Government have not received a copy of resolutions passed by the Standing Committee of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference but have seen reports published in the Press.

ARECANUT EXPORTS TO MALAYA

1455. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that arecanut dealers in Malaya have asked the Indian Government to increase the present arecanut quota?

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(b) If so, what action was taken by the Government of India?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No such representation has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

MANDI SALT MINES

1456. Shri Hem Raj: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the core drilling and thermo compression evaporator schemes have been put into operation in the Mandi Rock Salt Mines?

(b) If so, from what date?

(c) How much salt is expected to be obtained yearly by these methods?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Core drilling operations in Mandi Salt Mines are now in progress. The installation of Thermo Compression Evaporators will depend on the results of the core drilling.

(b) The drilling programme was started on the 4th December, 1952.

(c) About 66,000 tons yearly.

SALT PRICES

1457. Shri Hem Raj: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the manner of fixation of prices of salt produced in different parts in India?

(b) What is the prevailing price of the Mandi-Rock Salt as compared with salt produced in other parts of India?

(c) How is it computed and fixed for purposes of sale?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The manner of fixing the price of salt varies with the States in which it is produced. In Government factories the price is fixed after taking into consideration the cost of production and the general principle is no-loss no-profit basis. In the case of private salt factories, some State Governments, viz Madras and Orissa have fixed ceiling ex-factory prices in their areas by the issue of orders under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 on the basis of cost of production plus some margin of profit. In other States viz. Bombay, Saurashtra, Kutch, Travancore-Cochin and West Bengal, the prices are neither fixed nor controlled by the Government.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of