

**Manipur Public Works Department**

2364 Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wharfage of about Rs 10,000 was paid by the Manipur Public Works Department for cement ordered through the Railways; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to fix the responsibility?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy) (a) Yes

(b) The explanation of the officer concerned has been called for and suitable disciplinary action will be taken

**Production of Sodium Sulphate**

2365. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been any production of sodium sulphate by any private firm in India,

(b) whether the indigenous production is sufficient to meet the requirements of the country,

(c) if not, the quantity annually imported by the State Trading Corporation, and

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange spent every year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) Yes, Sir The production during 1958 was 17,536 tons

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) The State Trading Corporation imported 4000 tons in 1958 and 5,000 tons in 1959 which was paid for in Indian Rupees The total imports otherwise than through the State Trading Corporation during 1958 (upto November) were of the value of Rs 22 lakhs approximately

**Renewal of Passports of Minority Community in East Pakistan**

2366. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications outstanding in East Pakistan from minority community to obtain renewal of passports or to get new passports; and

(b) the outcome of the talks held recently by Dr P K Banerjee, Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Dacca with Pakistan Central Minister, Shri Habibur Rahman?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government of India are not concerned with the issue of passports to members of the Minority Community of Pakistan and have no information on the subject

(b) Government of India are not aware of any such talks between Shri P K Banerjee, Acting Indian Deputy High Commissioner, and Mr Habibur Rahman, Pakistan Minister for Education, Information and Broadcasting

**Radio Station, Cuttack**

2367. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) whether any additional improvements have been made in the Cuttack Radio Station during the year 1958-59,

(b) if so, what are they, and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The power of the Station has been raised from 1 KW Mediumwave to 20 KW Medium-wave

(c) Rs 9,15,463 (up to the end of December, 1958)