

to (c). At the request of the Assam State Government, the National Council of Applied Economic Research conducted a Techno-economic Survey of Assam in 1959. The final report on the Survey was submitted by the Council to the Assam Government in December, 1961. The Report is expected to be published shortly.

#### Indians in Portuguese Colonies

1658. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the Indian nationals resident in Portuguese colonies who were interned at the time of liberation of Goa by Portuguese authorities have been released so far in view of the agreement reached some time back;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The Government of India understand that the Portuguese authorities have started releasing from the 12th of May, 1962, the Indian nationals interned by them in Portuguese colonies.

#### Mechanisation of Mandi Salt Mines

1659. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in mechanisation of the Mandi Salt Mines;

(b) by what time it is expected to be completed; and

(c) when the factory will be set up at Jogindernagar for the preparation of rock salt?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The

Guma Mines are worked by the dry mining method and there is no proposal to mechanize them. As regards the Drang Mines, the scheme of sinking of shafts has been suspended due to difficult condition of the strata encountered during the course of the sinking operations. The Indian Bureau of Mines has been asked to undertake survey and proving operations by structural and detailed drilling and to advise in regard to the best method of developing them.

(c) Setting up of a factory at Jogindernagar for the manufacture of refined salt forms part of the scheme to introduce wet mining system for the Drang Mines which shall be examined on receipt of the advice of the Indian Bureau of Mines.

12 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### COMPANIES (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S) GENERAL RULES AND FORMS

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1408 dated the 25th November, 1961, under subsection (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-131/62].

##### REPORT OF GANGA BRAHMAPUTRA WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Report on the Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board for the year 1961. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-132/62].

12.02 hrs.

#### PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2