

†[श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील 'तालिब' क्या यह बात सही है कि यह ग्रेनाइट जो कुछ आफीसरों के किये जाते हैं उनमें कुछ आफीसर सबलेटिंग भी करते हैं और क्या इसके मुतल्लिक सरकार ने कोई तहकीकात की है ?]

श्री सभापति : इस सवाल की वादत पूछ रहे हैं या कुछ धोका हुआ है आपको ? इससे यह नहीं पैदा होता है ।

PURITY OF COMMON SALT

*47. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 59 in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th February, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the relaxation given in the standard of about 96 per cent. purity of Common Salt for human consumption laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 has been discontinued from 1st April, 1964;

(b) whether chemical examination of the salt available in Delhi market has been carried out with a view to find out if any harmful chemical impurities are present; and

(c) whether any research has been done to find out if there are any bad effects on human body by the constant consumption of this impure salt?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Analysis of samples of salt currently available has revealed that sodium chloride content is 95 per cent. i.e. 1 per cent. less than the standard prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. This one per cent. decrease in the sodium chloride content appears to be compensated by a corresponding increase of sodium sulphate which is normally present in common salt. It has laxative properties if taken in sufficient dose.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I have not been able to follow from the Minister's reply whether the common salt of purity less than 96 per cent. would be continued to be allowed to be sold in the Delhi markets.

DR. D. S. RAJU: Yes. A request has come to us from the Ministry of Industry that relaxation might be made and it might be reduced to 95 per cent. So that the position stands at that now. So far as the Health Ministry is concerned, from the health point of view, I do not think it is harmful. From the health point of view, 95 per cent. is quite satisfactory.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Am I to understand that there is difficulty in obtaining salt of 96 per cent. purity and that is why the request has come from the Industry Ministry to relax this rule and bring it down to a lesser purity?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Yes. Obviously, for technical reasons probably, it is difficult to produce in this country 96 per cent. purity salt.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the Minister if it is a fact that for chemical analysis of salt or for other adulterated articles, the facilities available in Delhi are much too inadequate and it takes months before analyses are available?

DR. D. S. RAJU: I am aware that there is some delay but we are trying to rectify the condition.

SHRI P. N. KATHJU: Will the Government deny that in 1952, when the purity laws were first introduced in the case of salt, over 2,000 telegrams were received by the Ministry of Production for lowering the standard by half a per cent. and that was rejected? The standard was raised by 1 per cent. every year till it rose to 96 per cent. Now a claim is made that in India salt of that purity cannot be produced. This is not correct. The only place where salt of that purity is not being produced is the public sector company . . .

(Interruptions)

†[] Hindi transliteration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought that you would be putting a question.

SHRI P. N. KATHJU: I am coming to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you are coming by a long detour.

SHRI P. N. KATHJU: In the public sector company they have not been able to produce salt of 96 per cent. purity and so the standard is being lowered and the claim is made that salt cannot be produced of 96 per cent. purity. In the rest of the country specially in Saurashtra, salt of a higher purity than 98 per cent is being produced.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Thank you for the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. Member has finished. Has the Minister to say anything?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Sir, only this. that the production of salt of 96 per cent. purity is rather difficult, and from the health point of view also, there is no objection to 96 per cent. purity so long as the salt does not contain anything also except sodium sulphate as one of the impurities, as that is not harmful to health.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: What is the purity of the common salt which is being exported from this country, and if that is of higher purity, what is the reason for giving salt of lower purity for use inside the country?

DR. D. S. RAJU: I want notice, Sir.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The salt that is being exported is of 98 per cent. purity. The point really is this. There are the small-scale producers in this country, and they are numerous. Under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, people can produce salt without paying excise duty. And these are not able to produce salt of a higher standard. As my hon. colleague has said, this slight reduction in NCL content

does not affect health and even salt of 94 per cent. purity is good enough for human consumption and there is no use putting the small producers into trouble. For higher purity you require high technical investment which the small producers are not capable of.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will permit you to put your question. But I may say that it is my practice to allow one supplementary to one Member in whose name the question does not stand.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: How many samples of salt were taken in Delhi and in how many cases the results were obtained from the laboratories? Also, if the results obtained from the laboratories number less than the number of sample submitted, what steps are the Government taking to increase the number of laboratories?

DR. D. S. RAJU: I have no information. I will provide the hon. Member with information on the subject.

LICENCES FOR FOREIGN COLLABORATION

*48. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences for foreign collaboration in industries, which were given to private parties in 1963 and so far in 1964; and

(b) how many of them have been utilised and what are the reasons for not utilising the others?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The total number of foreign collaboration agreements—both technical and financial—approved during