

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: Is there any foreign collaboration involved in this?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir.

MANUFACTURE OF POTASSIUM CHLORIDE

*660. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Potassium Chloride is at present manufactured in India; and

(b) what are its commercial uses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) A small quantity of Potassium Chloride is manufactured as by-product of salt petre refineries.

(b) Potassium Chloride is mainly used in the production of Potassium Salts e.g. Caustic Potash, Potassium Permanganate, Potassium Bichromate, Potassium Chlorate etc. Another important use is as a fertiliser.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any Potassium Chloride is still being imported?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir, about Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs worth. Sometimes it goes up to Rs. 1 crore or Rs. 1½ crores.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any efforts are being made to manufacture more Potassium Chloride in the country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. That is exactly our approach just now. Even though we do not have the necessary raw materials in large bulk this can be produced as a by-product of salt petre. That is what we are investigating.

DEPARTMENTAL TEST FOR FILLING HIGHER POSTS IN HORTICULTURE DIVISION

*661. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS,

HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Horticulture Division of the Central Public Works Department holds departmental tests for the filling up of posts in the higher grades; if so, which are those posts;

(b) what are the academic qualifications laid down for the eligibility of candidates to take these tests; and

(c) whether the departmental test is considered equivalent to B.Sc. (Agr.) and M.Sc. (Agr.) for promotion purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) No test has been prescribed for filling up higher posts in the Department.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CANADA-INDIA REACTOR

*662. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's second reactor "Canada-India Reactor" has gone into operation and if so, when;

(b) when India's third reactor "Zer'ina" is likely to go into operation;

(c) whether radio-isotopes are being used for medical purposes in India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how many centres in India can at present handle radio-isotopes for medical purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes. The Reactor reached criticality on July 10, 1960.

(b) By end of November, 1960.

(c) Yes.

(d) Any hospital which has a radiocobalt therapy unit uses radio-isotopes for medical purposes. In addition eleven hospitals use radio-isotopes regularly, and another five occasionally.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know the reasons for the delay in Zerlina going into operation?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is still under construction. Till it is finished, it cannot go into operation.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: May I know the list of hospitals in which radio-isotopes are used?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Radio-isotopes are regularly used in the following institutions—

1. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2. The Cancer Institute, Madras.
3. The Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.
4. The Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Calcutta.
5. The Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore.
6. The Defence Science Laboratory, Delhi.
7. The Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay.
8. The J. J. Hospital, Bombay.
9. The K. E. M. Hospital, Bombay.
10. The Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi.
11. The Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

The following institutions make occasional use of radio-isotopes for medical purposes:—

1. The Breach Candy Hospital, Bombay.
2. The Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.
3. The Northcote Nursing Home, Bombay.

4. The V. J. Hospital, Amritsar.

5. The Virus Research Institute, Poona.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Satisfied?

SHRI ROHIT M. DAVE: It is said that certain structural defects in the working of this reactor have been noticed and that it is creating some trouble. Is there any truth in that report?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I do not know, Sir. There is nothing that I know of.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Do I understand that it is the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Madras that is given Radio-isotopes? It is run by the Indian Women's Association.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes.

FOOD DROPPING OPERATIONS IN NEFA

*663. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food dropping operations in the North-East Frontier Agency have been entrusted to a private firm since July 1, 1960; and

(b) if so, what are reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, from 1st May 1960.

(b) The contract was awarded on the basis of the quotation submitted by the private chartered Company in response to the tender notice advertised by the NEFA Administration in the leading newspapers.