

(b) These remained under water for nearly 24 hours. The extent of damage is estimated roughly at Rs. 4 lakhs.

(c) Production was stopped for a period of 9 days.

(d) The floods were unprecedented and the damage was not due to any fault in design.

(e) All reasonable precautions were taken and continue to be taken by the Nepa Mills authorities.

#### CENTRAL SALT BOARD

\*6. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 135 in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken for the setting up of the Central Salt Board; and

(b) whether the State Governments concerned have agreed to the setting up of such a Board?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) The question is still under consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that some officers of the Ministry recently were deputed to study the salt industry in France?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the French Government wanted the Indian Government to depute two salt experts?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: They were the same. It was a response from both sides. The French Government desired and we also desired to send our experts. So two gentlemen went.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the officers who were deputed to go to France were connected with the salt industry in India?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. One is the Chairman of the Hindustan Salt Company and the other is the Salt Commissioner to the Government of India.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether they have submitted any report after their return from France?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes. Like all the delegations they have sent their technical notes and recommendations which are generally taken into consideration for the formulation of development programmes and policies.

#### PERMANENT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT DELHI

\*7. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for a permanent Industrial Exhibition at Delhi has been abandoned; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when the exhibition is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal is at an advanced stage of consideration and a decision is expected to be taken shortly.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India had decided to start a permanent industrial exhibition after the "India 1958" Exhibition?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, the matter has been under consideration since then. In the meantime, the World Agriculture Fair intervened.