

(c) if so, how much foreign exchange is involved in the import licence granted to the firm?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir. However some imports are necessary to meet the full requirements of the country.

(b) and (c). A firm in Kanpur has been given permission to print cheque forms with foreign collaboration. They have not, however, been granted any import licence for cheque paper so far.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know how much foreign printed security cheque papers are still being imported?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is about Rs. 15 lakhs on the whole for the bank form and the cheque form. As far as currency papers are concerned, it runs into about a crore of rupees.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know how much of the requirements of cheques is being met by Indian printed cheques?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Very little so far but the efforts are that with the two local manufacturers and perhaps with a public sector factory which might be established by the Government of India we may be in a position to cover most of our requirements in the next three to four years.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that import licence to the tune of Rs. 2,58,000 was granted to the Kanpur firm?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: When a firm starts manufacturing something, in the initial stage to make up for their production programme certain token licences may have to be given. But I will enquire into the matter and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that another firm which has been printing cheques for a longer period was refused import licence for the same purpose?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: If the hon. Member gives me the name of the firm, certainly I will look into the matter.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: The Calcutta Prototype Company Limited.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I will certainly look into the matter and inform the hon. Member what is the position with regard to the Calcutta factory and what is the position with regard to the Kanpur factory.

MANUFACTURE OF SODIUM SULPHATE

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

(a) the quantity of Sodium Sulphate being manufactured in India; and

(b) what was its price per ton on 1st March, 1956, 1st March, 1957, and 1st March, 1958?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Quantity of Sodium Sulphate manufactured in India and Prices thereof.

(a) About 10,000 tons per annum (excluding supplies made from natural deposits at Didwana).

(b) Price charged for naturally occurring sodium sulphate at Didwana was Rs. 100 per ton, f.o.r. Merwar-Bailia. The price of the by-product sodium sulphate ranged as follows depending upon the sodium sulphate content as well as the nature and quantity of impurities:—

1956—between Rs. 125—360 per ton.

1957—between Rs. 135—250 per ton.

1958—between Rs. 150—340 per ton.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any sodium sulphate is being imported?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: About 28 tons have been imported last year—practically very negligible.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know the quantity of natural sodium sulphate which was sold last year?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: 'Natural' means all that is produced in the country? Or if the hon. Member means only that produced at Didwana, the production is only about 9,000 to 10,000 tons. We get sodium sulphate as a by-product of industries and there are 17 firms which also produce glauber's salt. That will be running to 15,000 to 20,000 tons.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether there are any possibilities of getting more supplies from natural sources?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. The Hindusthan Salt Company which has been formed will look fully into the utilisation of by-products from Sambhar and other natural deposits and glauber's salt is a very important natural product of this industry.

HEAVY MACHINERY PLANT AT RANCHI

*289. SHRI T. BODRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land required for the construction of the Heavy Machinery Plant at Hatia, Ranchi; and

(b) the total number of persons likely to be displaced as a result of the construction of the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Area of land required for the construction of Heavy Machinery Plant at Hatia, Ranchi and number of persons likely to be displaced as a result thereof

(a) The actual area required for the project at Hatia (comprising both the machine building and foundry-forge plants) will be known only when the lay-out and location plans of different parts of the project, such as water supply, factory buildings township etc. have been finalised. These in turn will depend upon the detailed reports to be still prepared by the respective consultants and our own staff. It is understood that the State Government has notified 3,900 acres of land for acquisition for the project.

(b) In the first stage of the project, excluding small hamlets likely to be submerged by the proposed water supply reservoir on the Subarnarekha river, for which detailed survey and census work are in progress, 173 families having with about 1,500 to 1,600 members are likely to be affected.

SHRI T. BODRA: In view of the fact that the people are going to be displaced and they are illiterate and backward and as such cannot utilise the money which is given to them by way of compensation, may I know whether the State Government of Bihar has been requested to give them reclaimed lands which are available roundabout, to give them land for land and house for house?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is a matter of general policy. Wherever the Central Government or any public sector project comes forward we will look to the fact that those who are likely to be displaced are properly compensated or provided for and the State Governments have always been