

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DECISION
TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
REPORT OF THE PART B STATES
(SPECIAL ASSISTANCE) ENQUIRY
COMMITTEE.

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): Sir, on behalf of the hon. Dr Kailas Nath Katju, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of a statement showing the decision taken by Government on the Report of the Part B States (Special Assistance) Enquiry Committee [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 177.]

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY NOTIFICATION DATED 9TH OCTOBER 1953 UNDER THE REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACT, 1952.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply Notification No 5998-EII/53, dated the 9th October 1953, under sub-section (2) of section 17 of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952 [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 178.]

THE SALT CESS BILL, 1953—
continued

SHRI H P SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh) Mr Chairman, when the Council adjourned last evening I was speaking on the Salt Cess Bill and I had covered only a small ground when the time of the sitting terminated. In my speech last evening I said that according to the heritage left by Mahatma Gandhi, salt should be as free as the air that we breathe and yet I was confronted with a Bill which seeks to impose, or attempts to continue the cess on the manufacture of salt

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

But we are unfortunately not completely following most of the things left to us as legacy by the great Mahatma This Bill probably comes

under that. I find that in clause 1 there is a perennial exception that this Bill would apply to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir Since it is a delicate matter as pointed out to us so many times by the Prime Minister, I will not touch it. I will only submit that if every time we pass a law here in this Parliament for the whole of India, we make an exception in the case of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, our claim on that State becomes weaker and weaker This is the only submission that I have to make.

In spite of the very lucid exposition given by the hon Minister-in-Charge regarding the provisions and the manner in which he explained the self-explanatory Bill I cannot reconcile myself to two types of cesses on salt, "(a) in the case of section 3 that is in the case of salt manufactured in a private salt factory, at the rate of two annas per standard maund; and (b) in the case of salt manufactured in a salt factory solely owned or solely worked by the Central Government, at the rate of three and a half annas per standard maund" Now, Sir, the hon Minister claimed in his speech that the cost of manufacture in Government-owned factories was less than in private-owned factories Why, then, this higher levy? I would like to know that Any amount of money that you increase in the matter of cess, goes to raise the price of salt. And, since Government salt would be preferred by the consumers—because it is Government salt—the price of the salt used by the poor consumer will have to be more. I do not understand the difference between the two types of cesses

Now, Sir, there is the Indian proverb that "those who eat the salt of another person should always be—I find some Opposition benches here are vacant—loyal to the person whose salt they eat" This proverb is so very well-known that each one of us is throughout our life cautious and careful not to betray the cause of that individual whose salt he has eaten.