

successful completion of detailed study on the overall developmental plan and detailed design of the project by the consultant employed under the phase-I of the project as well as satisfactory progress and performance of the phase I. The loan agreement of the first phase of the project was signed on December 12, 1997 for 2212 million Japanese Yen. The agreement became effective from 5th Feb. 1998. The process of the implementation has started from 1st April, 1998 as indicated by the Commissioner Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) The important terms of the Japanese aid is that it will fund the project of the extent of Japanese Yen 2212 million against the total project cost of Yen 3995 million. The proceeds of the loan are available for following items:-

- (i) To construct and expand the necessary infrastructure related to the sericulture of tasar sector.
- (ii) To develop the plantation of tasar food plant.
- (iii) To construct and/or provide the reeling, twisting and spinning facilities.
- (iv) To provide the technical assistance for the rearer, reeler and spinner.
- (v) Consultancy services for tasar and mulberry sector.

The disbursement of the proceeds of the loan shall be made with the limit of the Japanese Government annual budgetary appropriation for the fund. The financing of the loan will not cover general administration expenses, taxes and duties, purchase of land and other real property, compensation and other indirect items. These costs shall be met by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

The borrower (Government of Madhya Pradesh) shall reply the principal amount of the loan in accordance with the amortization schedule as indicated below:-

Due date	Amount (in Japanese Yen)
On December 20, 2007	53,960,000
On each June, 20 and December, 20	53,951,000
Beginning June 20, 2008	
Through December 20, 2027	

Ministry of Textiles through Central Silk Board (CSB) will be involved in the training technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation of the project. These funds will be provided from the on going schemes of the CSB.

### Import of Textile Products

1021. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of textile products in the country are rising;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the measures proposed to safeguard the domestic textile products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the DGCIS data, the import of textile products during 1997-98 amounted to Rs. 3116.25 crores (Provisional) showing a growth of 12.1% over 1996-97.

(c) In the various WTO agreements, there are certain provisions for taking safeguard measures against cheap imports to any member country, including India. Government has been closely watching the import trends of textile products and if the need arises Government would initiate steps for necessary safeguard action like imposition of countervailing duty, anti-dumping duty etc. to prevent the low cost import of textile products and to safeguard the domestic products.

### Demand and Production of Salt

1022. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT :

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of salt required and its production in the country;
- (b) the percentage share of Maharashtra and Gujarat in the total salt production of the country;
- (c) the details of salt production in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years, particularly by the salt industry of Kutch region;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase salt production in these States;
- (e) the details of assistance provided in this regard by the Government during the last three years; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The average annual requirement of salt in the country is about 110 lakh tonnes. The average annual production of the salt in the country is 135 lakh tonnes.

(b) Out of the average annual production of about 135 lakh tonnes of common salt produced in the country, the share of Maharashtra and Gujarat is as follows:

Maharashtra	—	2%
Gujarat	—	72%

(c) The performance of salt industry in Gujarat and Maharashtra in terms of their salt production was as under in the last three years:

Sl.No.	State	Salt Production in '000 tonnes		
		1995	1996	1997
1.	Gujarat	8824.4	10403.5	10096.2
2.	Maharashtra	224.3	245.9	200.6

The Kutch region of Gujarat contributes over 45 lakhs tonnes in the total production of salt in Gujarat. Details of production of salt in Kutch region for last three years are as under:

	Salt production in '000 tonnes		
	1995	1996	1997
Kutch Region	4,524.4	4,995.5	4,586.1

(d) The following steps have been taken to further boost the production of salt:-

- No objection certificates are being issued by Salt Department for allotment of fresh lands for salt manufacture by the State Governments.
- Technical guidelines have been provided for laying out salt works on scientific lines with latest know-how.
- For increasing demand of quality salt for edible purpose, salt refineries are being permitted in the States.
- In order to ensure that salt works restart their production after being affected by floods, rehabilitation measures are taken by way of financial assistance to affected salt works.

(e) and (f) Assistance out of salt cess proceeds is given for various labour welfare and development works. These include provision of medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, rest sheds and cèches at work places and recreational facilities for labourers and their families. Details of assistance provided for labour welfare and development works in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	94.4
1996-97	72.7
1997-98	69.0

Ex-gratia assistance is also granted to salt manufacturers whose salt works are affected by natural calamities such as floods, rains etc. Details of such assistance granted in the last three years are as follows :

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	27.0
1996-97	39.5
1997-98	38.0

An amount of Rs. 3.65 crore has been granted during the current financial year 1998-99 as ex-gratia assistance to salt manufacturers whose works were affected by cyclone in June, 1998 in Gujarat.

#### Justice Dhanuka Committee

1023. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Justice Dhanuka Committee's recommendations;

(b) whether the SEBI has accepted in principle the recommendations of Justice Dhanuka Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all efforts are being made by SEBI to over-rule the UTI Act and to render a large number of domestic investors into the ordeals of stock markets; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The main recommendations of Justice Dhanuka Committee appointed by SEBI include consolidation of securities laws, expansion of scope of law in the securities market cover hitherto unregulated activities, precedence of securities laws over certain other Laws, sole regulatory agency for securities market, enhancement of powers and jurisdiction of SEBI, etc.

(b) and (c) SEBI has agreed with the recommendations of the committee with some reservations.

(d) and (e) As UTI is governed under the UTI Act, 1963, SEBI has worked out a separate regulatory framework for UTI under which all schemes of UTI introduced after 1st July, 1994 would be regulated by SEBI. The Mutual Fund Regulations of SEBI would also apply mutatis mutandis to these schemes.

#### Patent Based on Research and Technology

1024. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: