

(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: