

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:299
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION/EXPORT OF SALT
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production, consumption and export of salt during each of the last three years upto June 30, 2002;
- (b) the details of facilities being provided by the Government to boost the production and export of salt;
- (c) whether any financial assistance is also being given to State Governments for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details of assistance so far provided to each State during the above period;
- (e) whether warehousing facility is available at the various ports for storing salt;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.299 FOR ANS ON 2.8.2002.

(a) The details of production, consumption and export of salt for the last three years upto May 31, 2002 are given below:

(Figures in lakh M.T.)

Year	Production	Consumption	Export
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	Edible	Industrial		
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1999	144.53	49.44	60.64	8.29
2000	156.51	52.21	68.10	10.57
2001	142.84	50.04	64.92	16.13
2002	89.25	20.13	26.86	6.60

(upto May)

(b) Government is taking the following steps to boost the production of salt in the country.

(i) Site inspection is undertaken to judge the suitability of the land for salt manufacture and appropriate recommendations made for allotment of land by the State Governments for the purpose.

(ii) Technical guidance is provided for the construction of salt works on scientific lines.

- (iii) Setting up of Salt Refineries in the salt producing areas is encouraged to meet the increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial and export purposes which help in boosting up the production of common salt.
- (iv) Financial assistance in the form of ex-gratia and loan is provided to the salt works which suffer damages due to natural calamities like floods/cyclones etc. to enable them to recommence their production. Financial assistance is also extended for undertaking development and labour welfare schemes in the salt works.
- (v) Departmental salt land suitable for salt manufacture is leased out to private parties for salt manufacture.
- (vi) The Government vide Notification No.GSR 639(E) dated 4.9.2001, has replaced consignment-wise permit system for removal of salt from salt factories with the Self Removal Procedure (SRP) which will minimize hassles and thereby help in the increase of salt production.

Also Government is taking following steps to promote export of salt:

- (i) Salt exported is exempted from the payment of cess.
- (ii) Office of the Salt Commissioner is the designated inspecting agency for issuing Export Worthy Certificate (EWC) for export of all types salt. EWC is issued free of charge.
- (iii) Export of salt has been brought under Open General License with effect from August,1987 and quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh M.T. on export of iodized salt has been lifted from July, 1992.
- (iv) Star Trading Houses & Export Houses have been exempted from compulsory pre-shipment inspection of salt.
- (v) Railways are according priority `B` for export of common and iodized salt by rail to neighbouring countries.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. The Office of the Salt Commissioner extends financial assistance for execution of development and labour welfare schemes sponsored by State Governments and Salt Producers. Details for the last three years are given below:

(Fig. in Rs. lakhs)

State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Gujarat	98.97	191.52	55.62
Andhra Pradesh	6.29	6.25	-
Tamil Nadu	8.52	6.71	4.98
West Bengal	6.82	-	-
Orissa	3.92	0.45	1.78
Maharashtra	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	-
Rajasthan	11.29	6.22	8.12
Grand Total	135.81	211.15	70.50

(e) to (g) : Separate warehousing facilities are not available at ports for storing salt. However, the common facilities available for other commodities can be made use by salt exporters. Salt Department lands located near the ports and not fit for salt manufacture are licensed to exporters for storing salt. Similarly, Port trust lands are also leased / licensed to exporters for storing salt. The Salt Works located within 25 Km. from the ports can store the salt within their Salt Works and load in the vessel on its arrival.