

Title : Need to lift the ban on the sale of non-iodised salt in the country.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): Sir, Sale of non-iodised common Salt has been banned throughtout the country. Salt from sea water is manufactured in several parts of the country, especially in the coastal regions of Gujarat and in Tamil Nadu. Flouride content which is hazardous causing bone disease is not much in the common Salt obtained from sea water. That hazardous chemical compound is found more in rock salt and iodine content is required more by people living in hilly areas. But without establishing entirely through medical research, Union Government is implementing a blanket ban on common salt. Sale of common salt has also been banned. Apart from its use in the kitchen as a household item, common salt is used in tanning industry, chemical industry and traditional food processing methods. Salt manufacturers found in Tuticorin, Kanyakumari, Ramnathapuram, Nagapattinam, Vedaranyam and Pondicherry will be seriously affected by the move. Several lakhs of labourers in salt quarters, small manufacturers and small traders will be hit hard. During our Independence struggle, the stress on freedom to manufacture salt added vigour to it through Salt Satyagraha. So such a ban on common salt must be reconsidered. The entire salt industry of the country will be affected. It may come to a standstill. Many families will be deprived of their livelihood. The liberty to choose between common salt and iodised salt must be left with the consumers in this free land. It needs to be probed whether multi-national companies are behind this move to ban the use of common salt. Hence, I urge upon the union Government and the Prime Minister to review this move without any further delay.

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.