

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding needs to solve the problems of salt workers of Dhrangadhira in Surendarnagar, Gujarat.

**DR.(PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA (SURENDRANAGAR):**

Hon. Speaker, Sir, today I am raising the problem of salt workers working in the salt fields of my constituency. In the small desert of the Kutch, more than 5000 salt workers and their families bear extreme heat and severe cold to produce salt by working from dusk to dawn. This process of production of salt has been going on from generation to generation for nearly 700 years in the small desert area of Dhrangadhira in Surendranagar district, Halvad, Patdi and Dasada. My request is to give following benefits for the salt workers. They should be given lease licence and legal rights of the land where they produce salt. The Government should fix the rate of their salt production. The Government should construct a canal from Surajbari to Kharaghoda to supply them salt water. Another parallel office of a Salt Commissioner should be started in Gujarat. It is the prime demand of the salt workers and the Association of Jhalawar Chamber of Commerce that a delegation should be sent to the salt fields to study the facts and to solve the problem of salt workers like drinking water, child education, benefit of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc.