

**Sixteenth Loksabha**

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Title: Regarding salt farming in Balasore Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha - Laid

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Odisha has a history of salt farming which goes back as early as 17th Century. In my Constituency Balasore, Bolanga village used to have a thriving cottage industry of salt farming. A co-operative society set up in 1970 with 330 hectares of land provided a living for over 500 families in the area which produced 300MT salt per annum. In 1996, packed iodised salt gained ground in the market and the industry in Bolanga has been facing crisis. The government had provided machines and laboratory to iodize salt, but they broke down and no help was given by the administration to make the machines and the laboratory functional. There is indeed a lot of potential for setting up a salt production unit in this area a move which could provide occupation and increase economic status of all farmers in the region.