

Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria, Australia, Japan and USSR.

(d) No licence is required for export of ready-made garments.

(e) In view of reply to (d) above, does not arise.

Foreign Indebtedness

1742. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign indebtedness of India as on 31st December, 1980; and

(b) the names of the country to which India owes the amount country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) The amount of foreign debt payable to foreign countries/institutions as on 31st December, 1980 was Rs. 13147.95 crores.

(b) A statement is attached giving break-up of such indebtedness by countries and institutions.

Statement

S. No.	Country/Institution	Amount (in Rs. crores)
1	2	3
1	Austria . . .	48.37
2	Belgium . . .	83.95
3	Canada . . .	355.47
4	Denmark . . .	26.36
5	F.R.G. . . .	1423.13
6	France . . .	317.01
7	Italy . . .	41.90
8	Japan . . .	998.13
9	Netherlands . . .	450.09
10	Switzerland . . .	20.61
11	U.K. . . .	890.01
12	U.S.A. . . .	2562.88
13	Norway . . .	0.38
14	Sweden . . .	0.17

1	2	3
15	Spain . . .	0.23
16	Czechoslovakia . . .	30.07
17	Hungary . . .	10.00
18	Poland . . .	6.89
19	U.S.S.R. . . .	188.84
20	Yugoslavia . . .	34.89
21	Bulgaria . . .	0.69
22	G.D.R. . . .	26.17
23	Romania . . .	16.09
24	U.A.E. . . .	55.58
25	Abu Dhabi Fund . . .	14.28
26	Kuwait Fund . . .	46.94
27	Saudi Fund . . .	54.70
28	Iran . . .	715.04
29	Iraq . . .	105.87
30	I.B.R.D. . . .	647.04
31	I.D.A. . . .	3363.82
32	I.F.A.D. . . .	6.28
33	OPEC FUND . . .	30.31
34	EEC (Special Action Credit) . . .	41.80
35	IMF Trust Fund . . .	533.96
Total . . .		13,147.95

थार रेगिस्तान में नमक का खनन तथा एक उर्वरक फैक्टरी की स्थापना

1743. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वाराणसी में हुई विज्ञान कांग्रेस में भारतीय भू-विज्ञान सर्वेक्षण के निदेशक ने यह बताया

था कि थार रेगिस्तान में 80 हजार किलोमीटर से भी अधिक क्षेत्र में नीचे 200 फीट की गहराई पर खरबों टन नमक की परतें हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो नमक के खनन तथा इस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक फ़ैक्टरी की स्थापना के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) प्रेस ट्रस्ट आफ इंडिया के वाराणसी संवाददाता के साथ बातचीत के दौरान भारतीय भू-वैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण के महानिदेशक ने राजस्थान के चुरू और बीकानेर जिलों में पहाड़ी नमक (सोडियम क्लोराइड) के विशाल निक्षेपों की हाल में हुई खोज के बारे में बताया था। विभिन्न बोर होलों में 324 मी० से 664 मी० की गहराई पर पहाड़ी नमक परतों की ऊपरी सतह पाई गई है। पहाड़ी नमक परतों की मोटाई 104 मीटर से 432 मीटर है। अब तक की खोज से इस क्षेत्र में पहाड़ी नमक के 8 बिलियन टन भंडार होने का अनुमान है। नमक बहुल क्षेत्र 50,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर में फैला है, जिसमें से 5000 वर्ग किलोमीटर की अब तक स्काउट ड्रिलिंग द्वारा खोज की जा चुकी है।

(ख) पहाड़ी नमक का उर्वरक बनाने में उपयोग नहीं होता। अतः पहाड़ी नमक पर आधारित उर्वरक कारखाना लगाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Report of Reserve Bank of India on Currency and Finance

1744. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country's economy which deteriorated considerably

with adverse movement in output, prices and external trade during the year that ended on June, 30, 1980 is looking up as per RBI report on currency and finance ;

(b) if so, to what extent the economy is looking up ;

(c) what are the other points mentioned in the RBI report on currency and finance;

(d) whether they have also stated that there is a definite improvement on the price front ;

(e) what are the factors responsible for this looking up of the economy ; and

(f) whether these steps will be continued so that the economy continues to retain the same trend during the financial year 1981-82 also ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) & (b). According to the Report on Currency and Finance, 1979-80, the foodgrain production, which suffered a sharp fall of 23 million tonnes to 108.9 million tonnes in 1979-80, is expected to be over 132 million tonnes in 1980-81. Production has also picked up in several vital industries in recent months. The Report further adds that in view of these, the growth in real national income would be significantly higher in 1980-81 as against a decline of 3 per cent in 1979-80, tentatively estimated.

(c) The Report also mentions that aggregate investment and savings ratios declined in 1979-80 from the peak levels reached in 1978-79. Reference is also made to the infrastructural constraints which resulted in the decline in industrial production since the last quarter of 1979. The Report has drawn attention to the growing impact of oil prices on the balance of payments situation. In this context, the possibility of a substantial draw down in foreign exchange reserves during 1980-81 has been mentioned.

(d) According to the Report, improved prospects for overall agricultural output have already had some favourable impact on price movements. Although the price increases have persisted, the rate of increase in the wholesale price index, from June to December 1979, 1980 was only 2.2 per cent compared with that of 11.1 per cent recorded over the corresponding period of 1979. The Report states that while there is a definite deceleration in the rate of inflation, the significant dependence on imported oils, in a situation of rising international prices of crude, has necessarily built into the price scene a bullish element.