

(c) and (d) The Tariff structure is determined keeping in view all relevant considerations including the interests of the domestic manufacturing industry as well as the user industry. There has been demand from domestic industry to abolish zero basic duty in customs duty structure. These representations are under examination.

Leasing out Mines to Non-Tribals in Tribal Areas

705. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to lease out mines to non-tribals in different tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mines in Dhar and Bhadwani districts of Madhya Pradesh where mining is going on;

(d) the number of mines out of these given on lease to tribals and non-tribals separately; and

(e) the number of illegal cases of mining brought to light in these districts and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There is no provision in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 or Rules framed thereunder that relate to grant or prohibit the grant of mining lease to non-tribals in tribal areas.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines there are 22 working mines for limestone in Dhar District and 11 working mines for calcite in Bhadwani Tehsil of Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh. Record of details of mines held by tribals and non-tribals is not maintained by the Central Government as mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments.

(e) As per the scheme of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, the main responsibility for checking illegal mining rests with the State Governments. Central Government does not monitor illegal mining in the country.

[English]

Indo-Oman Trade Relations

706. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Oman trade relations have been established; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the trade relations between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The areas of Indo-Oman bilateral trade relations include export of various items like rice, oil meals, meat and preparations, engineering goods, drug and pharmaceuticals, textiles etc. from India and import of certain items like fruits and nuts, dry dates, non-ferrous metals, crude oil etc. from Oman.

(b) These include holding of Joint Commission Meetings, participation in trade fairs & exhibitions, exchange of commercial information, exchange of delegation both at official & business level, enhancing competitiveness in manufacturing and ensuring product quality diversification of the export basket to include non-traditional items, reviewing trade exchanges on a continuous basis. These measures help in correcting imbalances and in resolving other trade related issues, thereby boosting trade.

Demand and Production of Salt

707. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of salt required and its production in the country annually, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase salt production in coastal States;

(c) the details of assistance provided in this regard by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The State-wise break up of the annual requirement of salt both for edible and industrial use in the country is given in the attached statement-I. The annual production of salt, State-wise, is given in the attached statement-II.