

(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.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase salt production in the country.

- No objection certificates are being issued for allotment of fresh lands for salt manufacture by the State Governments.
- Technical guidelines have been provided for laying out salt works on scientific lines with latest know-how.
- For increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial purpose and exports, salt refineries are being permitted in the States.
- In order to ensure that salt works restart their production after being affected by floods, rehabilitation measures are taken by way of financial assistance to affected salt works.

(c) and (d) Assistance out of salt cess proceeds is given for various labour welfare and development works. These include provision of medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, rest sheds and creches at work places and recreational facilities for labourers and their families. Details of assistance provided for labour welfare and development works in the last three years

are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	94.4
1996-97	72.7
1997-98	69.0

The State-wise break-up is given in the attached statement-III. Ex-gratia assistance is also granted to salt manufacturers whose salt works are affected by natural calamities such as floods, rains etc. Details of such assistance granted in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	27.0
1996-97	39.5
1997-98	38.0

An amount of Rs. 3.65 crores has been granted during the current financial year 1998-99 as ex-gratia assistance to salt manufacturers whose works were affected by cyclone in June, 1998 in Gujarat.

Statement-I

Annual Requirement of salt for domestic use

S.No.	State	Domestic requirement of salt		
		Edible use	Industrial use	Total
1	2	3	4	5
STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	474	160	634
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	—	6

000' tonnes

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	160	30	190
4.	Bihar	616	75	691
5.	Delhi	67	45	112
6.	Goa	8	—	8
7.	Gujarat	295	3840	4135
8.	Haryana	117	35	152
9.	Himachal Pradesh	37	3	40
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	55	—	55
11.	Karnataka	321	95	416
12.	Kerala	207	70	277
13.	Madhya Pradesh	472	270	742
14.	Maharashtra	563	250	813
15.	Manipur	13	—	13
16.	Meghalaya	13	—	13
17.	Mizoram	5	—	5
18.	Nagaland	9	—	9

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Orissa	226	37	263
20.	Punjab	144	165	309
21.	Rajasthan	314	260	574
22.	Sikkim	3	—	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	398	420	818
24.	Tripura	20	—	20
25.	Uttar Pradesh	992	145	1137
26.	West Bengal	485	35	520
	U.T.s			
27.	Andaman Nicobar	2	—	2
28.	Chandigarh	5	—	5
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	1
30.	Daman & Diu	1	—	1
31.	Lakshadweep	1	—	1
32.	Pondicherry	6	30	36
	Total	6036	5965	12001

Statement-II**State-wise Salt Production**

S.No.	State	Salt Production			
		1995	1996	1997	1998
1.	Rajasthan	1526.2	1131.4	1031.6	1120.5
2.	Gujarat	8824.4	10403.5	10096.2	8716.8
3.	Maharashtra	224.3	245.9	200.6	218.7
4.	Karnataka	17.2	18.9	14.0	14.1
5.	Goa	1.7	2.5	2.6	0.2
6.	Tamil Nadu	1738.8	2283.6	2532.9	1565.6
7.	Andhra Pradesh	139.9	276.4	273.4	238.2
8.	Orissa	26.5	47.0	63.8	38.4
9.	West Bengal	19.3	21.7	5.6	6.8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.9	2.5	3.1	2.4
11.	Daman & Diu	23.8	32.7	27.3	42.7
Total		12544.0	14466.1	14251.1	11984.4

Statement-III**State-wise Details of Assistance provided out of Salt Cess Proceeds**

(In Lakh Rupees)

S.No.	State	Year			
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Gujarat	10.71	17.95	14.15	21.03
2.	Tamil Nadu	30.77	31.91	30.28	15.65
3.	Rajasthan	5.80	9.36	6.05	0.93
4.	Andhra Pradesh	9.51	13.11	7.59	7.50
5.	West Bengal	6.73	6.54	0.49	5.48
6.	Maharashtra	7.56	8.03	7.26	12.16
7.	Orissa	2.08	7.45	6.88	5.41
8.	Karnataka	0.03	—	—	—
Total		73.19	94.35	72.70	68.16

**SCs/STs in Board of Directors of Banks/
Financial Institutions**

policy decision in regard to give loans to the weaker sections; and

708. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(a) whether the Government propose to nominate the representatives of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Board of Directors of all Public Banks/Financial Institutions so that flexibility could be brought while taking

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b)