

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1981
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
BAN ON CULTIVATION AND SALE OF CULTURED SALT
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of cultured salt is the traditional occupation of Agari community of Coastal Zones of the country, especially in Maharashtra and Gujarat;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have imposed ban on the production and marketing of this salt as it has no approved iodized mark;
- (c) if so, whether the Indian Medical Association has certified that the use of this salt is not harmful for human beings and recommended for lifting the ban on the production and marketing of this salt;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the time by which the decision to lift the ban is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): There is no ban on production of common salt. However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has imposed restriction on the sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption which came into effect on 27.5.1998. That Ministry has issued a fresh notification on 10.5.2000 inviting comments from the public on the proposal to remove the restriction on sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption.

The decision to issue the notification proposing removal of the restriction on sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption was based on the repeated representations received from certain segments of society that there should be no compulsion in measures promoting public health, which should be left to the `informed choice` of the people.

Comments have been received from the public, including medical experts, both supporting and opposing the proposal to remove the restriction on sale of non-iodized salt. All shades of opinion will be carefully considered in the Ministry of Health & F.W. before taking a final view in the matter.