

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001  
DEVELOPMENT OF SALT LAND IN MUMBAI  
ANANDRAO ADSUL

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Cabinet has taken any decision regarding development of salt land in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the time by which such decision was taken;
- (c) whether the Group of Ministers has been appointed for the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number meetings of Group of Ministers have since been held;
- (f) whether it is a fact that apathy from the Department has resulted into delay in implementation of Cabinet decision;
- (g) if so, the time by which the Department is likely to take decision regarding implementing the Cabinet decision and exploitation of salt land in Mumbai; (h) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested so many times and reminded regarding delay in the implementation; (i) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and (j) the details about the salt land and proposed action Plan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION ( SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA )

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Cabinet, on 9th May, 2001, approved a proposal for transfer of the surplus salt land in Mumbai from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. It also decided that a Group of Ministers would examine the issues relating to utilization of surplus salt land and its recommendations brought up before the Cabinet thereafter.

(c)&(d): The Group of Ministers has been constituted and it consists of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Minister of Shipping, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Information Technology and Communications, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Minister of Railways and Minister of Labour.

(e): No meeting of the Group of Ministers has been held so far.

(f) to (j): No, Sir. A number of meetings have been held by the Ministry with the officers of the Government of Maharashtra, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Deputy Salt Commissioner and Housing and Urban Development Corporation to ascertain the details of salt pan lands, the dates of expiry of lease, the exact location with reference to Coastal Zoning Regulations, and to work out the modalities for utilization of available surplus salt pan lands. Information has also been collected from concerned Central Ministries/Departments on the extent of encroachment on their lands at Mumbai. A team of officers of the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Housing and Urban Development Corporation visited Mumbai and along with the representatives of the State Government inspected the salt pan lands and held discussions to assess the various options for utilization of land. An action plan in consultation with the State Government and its agencies is under finalization for placing before the Group of Ministers for their consideration.