

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1218

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

SHORTFALL IN PRODUCTION OF SALT

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the production of salt is decreasing in the country continuously during the last few years especially in the State of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the impact of shortfall on edible and industrial salt consumption including price hike;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of edible and industrial salt consumption;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide any special financial assistance to the salt producers to produce more salt; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a): Production of salt is not decreasing in the country continuously.However,it has been fluctuating during the last 5 years. The actual production of salt in the country and Gujarat during the last five years is as follows:

Figures in lakh tonnes

S.No. Year Production in the country Production in Gujarat

1 2004-05 166.67 128.27

2 2005-06 189.69 146.92

3 2006-07 178.98 137.23

4 2007-08 178.45 127.65

5 2008-09 191.51 149.04

(b): Gujarat received unseasonal rain during July 2007 and September, 2008. Likewise Tamil Nadu also had unseasonal heavy rains during November 2008 & March 2009 which has affected the production of salt in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

(c): There was no impact on consumption of edible or industrial salt as sufficient buffer stock was available. There was slight increase in price of salt during 2008-09 due to comparative lower stock and increase in export of salt.

(d): In order to meet the requirement of edible and industrial salt, in the areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, fed by the salt produced in Tamil Nadu, special arrangements were made with the help of Railways for transport of salt from Gujarat to these States.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.