

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1069

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

. DEVELOPMENT OF SALT INDUSTRY

Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

- (a) whether Central Salt and Marine Research Institute and Salt Commissioner have developed model salt farms in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with any proposal received from State Government to set up more model farms in the State and follow up action taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of financial assistance being provided by the Government to such projects;
- (d) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to grant 50 per cent assistance for the development of salt industry and welfare activities for agarias; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

- (a): Yes, Madam. The Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI) is reported to have established certain model salt farms in Gujarat with the help of NGOs and the State Government.
- (b): The Central Government has received a general reference from the Industries & Mines Department of the Government of Gujarat in February 2012 suggesting Central Government funding for various activities related to salt industry and workers including model salt farms. However, in the absence of any concrete and specific proposal, the Central Government cannot take any decision in this regard. The State Government has been informed suitably.
- (c): For such projects, one-third financial assistance is given by the Central Government and the remaining amount is to be shared by the respective State Government and CSMCRI. However, in respect of Model Salt Farm being set up in Markanam in Tamil Nadu, two-third of the cost is being borne by the Central Government through the Salt Commissioner's Office and the remaining one-third of the cost by CSMCRI as the Government of Tamil Nadu did not agree to participate in the project.
- (d): The Central Government had received a general reference from the Government of Gujarat in February 2012 suggesting that the Central Government may contribute 50% of the amount in the projects approved by the State Government for the better welfare activities and development in salt producing areas.
- (e): In the absence of any concrete and specific proposal, the Central Government cannot take any decision in this regard.