

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:88

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013

. SALT INDUSTRY

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant 50 per cent assistance to State Governments for the development of salt industry and welfare activities for agarias;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote export of salt in the country particularly from Gujarat along with funds/facilities provided/being provided by the Government to the salt producers during the above period?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN )

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise. However, This Ministry monitors the overall development of salt industry, through the Salt Commissioner's Office (SCO). This includes planning, facilitating technology upgradation of the salt production process and conducting training programmes for salt workers. The SCO, in collaboration with State Governments, has established Model Salt Farms in Rajasthan and Odisha. The SCO also grants financial assistance for conducting welfare activities for salt workers like construction of labour rest sheds, organizing general medical health cum eye camps, supplementing facilities in the hospitals for the benefit of salt workers like providing ambulance, capacity building for transporting and storage of potable water, laying pipelines for supply of drinking water and granting scholarships to the meritorious children of the salt workers studying in class-VI to class-XII. The details of expenditure for development and labour welfare works during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Rs. in lakh	
2010-11	48.54
2011-12	111.35
2012-13	97.10
2013-14	12.27

(up to June 2013)

(c): Salt is being exported to around 80 countries. The Government of India has exempted payment of cess on salt exported to foreign countries under the provisions of Salt Cess Act, 1953 and the Rules made thereunder. Similarly, the Government of Gujarat has exempted payment of royalty on salt exported to foreign countries.