

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1840

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

. PRICE OF SALT

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether salt prices have significantly increased in certain parts of the country ;
- (b) if so, the names of such States where salt is being sold at exorbitant price and the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken by the Government to control the rising prices;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of salt in the country due to the sufficient production of salt; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam, the salt prices were reported to have increased significantly in certain parts of the country in the second week of November, 2013.

(b): Salt was sold at higher prices, upto Rs 150 per kg., in Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam due to stray rumours about artificial scarcity of salt. The situation was brought under control within two days of such reports being received through prompt action by the Central and State Governments. The Office of the Salt Commissioner, Jaipur, immediately assured the states that adequate stock of salt was available which could be transported to the required areas at short notice. The State Governments also took immediate action against stock hoarders and rumour mongers who had precipitated the situation of artificial shortage of salt. An Information drive was launched in the media for consumer awareness regarding sufficient availability of salt in the States where increase in salt price was reported.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Sufficient stock of salt is available to meet the domestic demand of edible salt. A meeting was convened by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion on 5th December, 2013 with stakeholders including State Governments concerned, their nominees and Salt Manufacturers Association to review the situation. Further, Railways have been requested to give priority for transportation of edible salt to these states. No shortage of salt has been reported by any State.