

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2967

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

SALT PRODUCTION

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

- (a) the details of salt production and consumption in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise along with salt exported during the said period, country-wise;
- (b) whether the salt producers are getting remunerative price of their produce;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the salt producers and to protect their interest?

Answer

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

(a):The State-wise details of production and consumption of salt (edible and industrial salt based on supplies) during the last three years i.e. for the year 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and the current year 2013-14 (upto November, 2013) are given at Annexure – I and Annexure – II respectively. The details of the quantity of salt exported during the said period are at Annexure – III.

(b) & (c): Price of salt is determined by market forces and is not regulated by the Government. The cost price of raw salt varies from State to State depending upon the productivity, cost of inputs like labour, electricity and density of brine used for production of salt. The sale price of salt depends upon its variety i.e. industrial / iodized / refined iodized / vacuum evaporated / pure salt, quality of packing material used and other determinants including transportation cost.

(d):The State Governments fix the minimum wages for all types of labourers including salt workers. 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, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. State Governments are implementing various welfare schemes like Life insurance cover, construction of school rooms, jetty, rest sheds, protective bunds and roads to salt works, supply of safety kits and drinking water, issuance of identity cards to the salt labourers and providing bicycles. The SCO grants financial assistance to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, salt industry and manufacturers in 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.