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Title: Need to lift ban on sale of non-iodised salt.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (COIMBATORE): After 6 years of lifting the ban on sale of non-iodised salt in 2000, the govt. has again imposed the ban with effect from May 17th 2006. The government claims that the ban is to address the increasing iodine deficiency diseases. But there are no studies to prove that IDD is rampant in the country. Instead there are medical researches that reveal the ill effects of continuous excess consumption of iodine. There is distinct commercial angle in the rush for iodised salt. Iodination, besides resulting in huge increase in salt prices will expose the small scale manufacturers into uneven competition with the established brands. The small manufacturers will certainly not be able to withstand the competition and will lose their very livelihood with nearly one lakh workers in the industry.

Moreover, the WHO recommends a daily intake of iodine for people over 12 years, a mere 150 mg. This is provided through any simple diet. Hence the claim of the government that this ban is to address the IDD is thus defeated.'

I, therefore, urges upon the government to lift the ban on non-iodised salt with immediate effect.