

PROF. N. G. RANGA: What steps are being taken by Government in order to encourage our Universities and other scientific institutions in our country to see that there would be a regular stream of young people who are trained in this direction so that we need no longer depend upon foreign personnel or foreign know-how?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: I would like to remind the Hon. Member of what I said earlier that the know-how is entirely Indian. The ship 'Gaveshani' is totally indigenous. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that for future work we have an excellent team of young talented scientists. A Committee has been constituted of major agencies such as the Geological Survey of India, Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Indian Metallurgical Department, NIO, IIT and Universities which would be fully associated in this research programme.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: In the Law of the Sea Conference at Caracas, it was one of the points that was discussed that an International Seabed Authority would be set up to exploit the sea-bed minerals.

I would like to know what has happened to that and whether a decision has been taken about its composition, powers and the financial implications. Pending the decision, is it not open to the Member-States to proceed with the exploitation of the sea-bed within the exclusive economic zone of the individual country?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: As I have said previously, this UN Conference on the Law of the Sea is in session. But I would like to clarify the other point. As far as India is concerned, we have our territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of 1976. There is already a consensus in the U.N. Conference about 200 miles exclusive economic zone where a coastal State will have sovereign rights for exploration, exploitation and management of all its resources.

नमक पर लगे उपकर का समाप्त किया जाना

*728. श्री नरसिंह मकवाना : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नमक पर लगे उपकर को राज्य सरकारों को सौंपने का निर्णय कर लिया गया है और यदि हाँ, तो इसके परिणाम-स्वरूप केन्द्रीय सरकार को कितने राजस्व की हानि होगी ;

(ख) इस समय नमक-उपकर से प्राप्त राजस्व में राज्य सरकारों का हिस्सा कितना है ; और

(ग) क्या नमक पर लगे उपकर को पूर्णतः समाप्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government have not taken any decision to entrust cess on Salt to State Governments.

(b) Nil.

(c) Salt Enquiry Committee set up by Government in 1978 to undertake a review of the problems facing Salt Industry have recently made recommendations regarding levy of salt cess. These recommendations are under consideration.

श्री नरसिंह मकवाना : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि नमक पर कर के बारे में आजादी की लड़ाई के जमाने में महात्मा गांधी ने नमक कर के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी थी और आज हम नमक पर कर ले रहे हैं, भले ही थोड़ा हो। तो यह कहाँ तक सही है इस पर सरकार को फौसला करना चाहिये और जल्दी से जल्दी करना चाहिये और जब तक कोई फौसला न हो तब तक जिन राज्यों में नमक पैदा होता है उन राज्यों को नमक पर लगे कर में से कुछ हिस्सा आप देना चाहते हैं कि नहीं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): There is a difference between a cess and a tax. The cess is always linked with the objective. The object of the salt cess is to utilize that cess for promoting and developing salt works. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Salt Cess Act, 1953 governs the manner in which the utilisation of the salt cess can be done for the objects mentioned in that Act. The important ones are the following: (1) Promoting the welfare of labour employed in the salt industry; (you will appreciate that Mahatma Gandhi never meant to oppose a levy for such a purpose); (2) meeting the expenditure incurred in connection with the Salt Organisation maintained by the Central Government; (3) meeting the cost of measures taken in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt by Union agencies; (4) regulation and control of the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt by other agencies and, in particular, measures for the establishment and maintenance of research stations and model salt farms; (5) establishment, maintenance and expansion of salt factories; and (6) fixing the grades of salt and promoting and encouraging co-operative effort among manufacturers. These are the promotional and development activities undertaken out of the proceeds of the salt cess.

श्री नरसिंहमकवाना : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे गुजरात में बड़ी मात्रा में नमक पैदा होता है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उपकरण का उपयोग गुजरात में कुछ नहीं होता। नमक उद्योग के अन्दर जो मजदूर काम करते हैं वह बड़ी मेहनत करते हैं फिर भी उनको अच्छा वेतन नहीं मिलना जिसके कारण उनको पूरा खाना नहीं मिल पाता है। तो उसके बारे में सरकार क्या करना चाहती है यह भी आप बतायें ?

साथ ही यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि

जांच समिति ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है उसकी क्या सिफारिशें हैं, और क्या उन सिफारिशों को आप नभा पटल पर रखेंगे कि नहीं ?

श्री चरणजीत चानना : जहाँ तक साल्ट इनक्वायरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट की बात है जवाब में भी यह कहा गया है कि "That is under consideration." After the report is considered and the Government takes a decision on that, we have no objection to placing it on the Table of the House at that time. As far as the promotional activities are concerned, the hon. Member would appreciate that it is not done only by the Salt Commissioner's office. Its involvement in the promotional activities is in collaboration with the Central Advisory Committee as well as the regional and local ones. They keep on reviewing from time to time the impact of the expenditure of the cess on the salt development and promotional projects.

श्री मोती भाई अर० चौधरी : नमक उपकर से अब तक कितनी आमदनी हुई है, खास तौर से गुजरात में कितना उपकर मिला है और इसका इस्तेमाल कौन-कौन सी चीज पर किया गया है और कितनी जमा राशि अब तक पड़ी हुई है ?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The State-wise information is not available, but I can give the total collections to the hon. Member. The total collections for 1977-78 are Rs. 1,51,81,878.54, for 1978-79 they are Rs. 1,61,22,859.12, for 1979-80 they are Rs. 1,66,64,033.56.

As far as the expenditure is concerned, the classification that we have is two-fold and out of that, the important one is on developmental work including maintenance works. For 1977-78 it was Rs. 31,43,889, for 1978-79 it was Rs. 47,97,609 and for 1979-80 it was Rs. 47,22,877.