

Cess on Salt Production

*927. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal for scrapping the Central Cess on Production of salt, particularly in the light of the Dandi March undertaken by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930 and its recent re-enactment on 12 March, 1988; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for which Government still continue to levy Central Cess on production of salt?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Government is not considering any proposal for abolishing the Central Cess on salt. Cooperative Societies and Private Manufacturers whose individual holdings are less than 10 acres are exempted from payment of cess. Similarly salt exported to foreign countries is also not liable to cess. In other words, cess is levied only on salt manufactured in areas exceeding 10 acres. Nearly 93% of cess is collected from large manufacturers operating in areas exceeding 100 acres.

2. The proceeds of salt cess, reduced by cost of collection, are utilised on meeting the expenditure incurred in connection with the Salt Organisation, development of Salt Industry, welfare of labour, etc.

[*Translation*]

Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited

*928. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAM DHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited which manufactures LPG cylinders, is running in loss;

(b) if so, the position in this regard for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Company is working to its full production capacity;

(d) if not, its production capacity and the capacity actually utilised during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the reasons for not utilising the full capacity; and

(f) the total production capacity proposed to be utilised in the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f). This company has several Divisions such as Barrels & Drums Units, Greases Division, Marine Freight Containers Divisions, Leather Chemicals Units, LPG Cylinder Units, etc. While all the other Divisions have been running practically at full production capacity, the LPG Cylinder Units have not been operating at full capacity for want of adequate demand for LPG cylinders. It is expected that the capacity utilisation of the LPG Cylinder Units of the Company would improve in the coming year.

[*English*]

NRIs Based Consultancy Authority

*929. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to set up a Non Resident Indian based consultancy authority with equity holding by the core public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The Government have approved the formation of a Joint Venture Company of six selected public sector enterprises and NRI Company, with equity participation of 51% by the NRI Company. The Joint Venture