

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:751
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
EXPORT OF SALT FROM GUJARAT
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

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

- (a) whether Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat has tremendous potential for salt exports;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote export of salt produced in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat; and
- (c) the steps taken to provide ultra modern loading and unloading facilities in Kutch-Saurashtra region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps are being taken to promote export of Salt:-

- (i) Export by sea/rail are exempted from levy of cess under Salt Cess Act,1953.
- (ii) Railways are according higher priority `B` for export of iodised salt and common salt by rail;
- (iii) Specifications for edible and industrial salt were laid down to ensure export of only good quality salt.
- (iv) Quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh metric tonnes on exports of iodised salt has been lifted in 1992.
- (v) Star Trading Houses & Export Houses recognised by Central Government have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of salt.
- (vi) Export Worthy Certificate is issued by Office of the Salt Commissioner free of charge.
- (vii) Establishment of salt refineries/washeries is encouraged to improve the quality of salt.
- (viii) In order to encourage export of salt and reward exporters, Export Award Scheme, 2002 has been introduced.

(c) In Kutch region at Port Jakhav, a salt export jetty with modern salt loading conveyor system has been established at the cost of Rs.250 Crores. Over and above two modern ports are developed for general cargo namely, Mundra and Pipavav with modern conveyor facilities which can be used for salt loading also.