



A Study on Export and Import of Salt in India

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ABSTRACT

Salt is one of the basic necessities of human beings. It is also one of the older commodities that was produced, exchanged and later traded. It is also attributed with many symbolic values. The present study is an attempt to understand the contemporary structure of salt production and distribution. The chosen area for the study is region of Tamilnadu, which produces substantial quantities of edible salt for consumption basically in the Southern States of Indian Union. The study was commissioned in a specific context. The universal iodisation programme that was launched with much hope faced a rough weather with the union government of India revoked the ban on consumption of non-iodized edible salt.

Keywords: Iodised salt Consumption, Production import and export.

INTRODUCTION

Salt is one of the basic necessities of human beings. It is also one of the older commodities that was produced, exchanged and later traded. The study was commissioned in a specific context. The universal iodisation programme that was launched with much hope faced a rough weather with the union government of India revoked the ban on consumption of non-iodised edible salt. The major argument against the universal iodisation programme was that it inherently worked against the interests of the small salt producers in the country.

Production of Salt

There was no production of salt (rock) in 2012-13 as well as in 2011-12 due to temporary Discontinuance of mining operations. There was no mine-head stock of salt at the beginning and end of the year 2012-13. However, India is the 3rd largest salt (common) producing country in the world after China & USA with a production of about 245 lakh tonnes during the year 2012-13.

Salt (common) is manufactured mainly by solar evaporation of Sea water in vast coastal states. Gujarat was the leading state followed by Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal, Goa and Diu Daman. There are about 11,799 salt manufacturers engaged in production of common salt in an extent of about 6 lakh acres land in the country. Out of these, about 6% each are in the large and medium category manufacturers and the rest 88% are small scale producers.

The major by-products recovered in the Salt Industry are Gypsum, Bromine, Magnesium Chloride and Magnesium Sulphate. The average number of labourers employed in the salt industry during 2011-12 and 2012-13 were 111,

932 and 108, 786 respectively. Prices of salt are furnished in the General Review on 'Prices'.

Uses of Salt

Salt, in addition to its culinary and domestic uses, is also employed in meat packing, fish curing and its preservation, dairying, preservation & processing of hides, manufacturing of soaps, detergent and dyestuff, dyeing and finishing off fabrics, refrigeration, glazing earthen ware, explosives, leather industries, bakery products, for soil stabilisation, in manufacturing artificial rubber and as a wood preservative. In agriculture, salt is used for treating hay and as a fertilizer for certain crops. In countries with cold weather conditions, salt is used in controlling ice and snow on streets and highways.

Consumption

Industrial consumption of salt is steadily increasing and has registered a record high of 11.44 million tonnes in 2012-13. During the same period, human consumption of salt was reported at 5.91 million tonnes. The industrial consumption of salt.

Export of Salt

Exports of salt increased to 4.55 million tonnes in 2012-13 from about 2.71 million tonnes during the preceding year. Similarly a quantity of 50.04 lakh tonnes of common salt valued at ` 679.44 crores was exported during 2012-13 as against 37.72 lakh tonnes valued about 492.25 crores in the previous year.

Imports of Salt

In 2012-13, imports of salts (other than common salt) were at 28,175 tonnes as compared to 34,208 tonnes in the previous year. Imports were mainly from Pakistan under Open General Licence.



CONCLUSION

The major argument against the universal iodisation programme was that it inherently worked against the interests of the small salt producers in the country. Such claims were disputed. Unfortunately, the opposing claims were not sufficiently grounded in serious and methodical study of salt producers in the country.

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