

PRESS NOTE

REGISTRATION OF SALT WASHERIES/ REFINERIES WITH SALT COMMISSONER

1. The Indian Salt Industry has made a spectacular growth and progress since independence. From an end of shortfall and import, we are today in an enviable position of not only having achieved self sufficiency but also becoming an exporter of Salt. The total production of Salt in India after independence has increased more than 5 fold from 18.5 lakh tonnes during 1947 to about 100 lakh tonnes in 1986.

2. Government of India has decided to iodise entire edible salt by 1992 in a phased manner in order to prevent and control goiter and other associated iodine deficiency disorders. Salt Department has been made the nodal agency for monitoring the production, distribution, quality control of iodised salt. Remarkable progress has been made in achieving production of iodised salt from 200 thousand tonnes in 1985 to 2200 thousand tonnes in 1988-89, covering 500 million people in goiter areas with iodised salt. Department of Food, Government of India has proposed iron fortification of salt to combat dietary deficiencies of iron in weaker sections of the population. Their fortification programme requires high quality of edible salt.

3. Upgradation of the quality of salt has been engaging attention of the Government for some time. With this end in view, government have deiced to encourage establishment of washeries/ refineries for purification of salt.

4. Salt Department with its headquarters at Jaipur shall function as nodal agency for registering such units. Salt Department would receive, process and register applications, units already registered with D.G.T.D. and the Directors of Industries of the State Government should also apply for fresh registration with the Salt Department.

5. The Setting up of new units for salt refinery/washery would however be governed by the following guidelines:-

- (a) The primary salt producers either individually, or joining together would be encouraged to established salt Upgradation plants.
- (b) New Industrial undertakings which are not engaged in primary salt manufacturing activity would also be encouraged to set up salt refinery/ washery in the salt producing areas only provide they purchase the raw salt from primary producers.
 - (i) The new industrial undertakings have to procure common salt from the existing primary salt producers preferably form small scale (holding less then 100 acres)

and Co-operative salt Manufacturers.

- (ii) The Industrial undertakings already registered under MRTTP Act and FERA is required to obtain clearance from the Department of Company Affairs or any other agencies with whom they are already registered.
 - (iii) The Chlor-Alkali units who have established their captive salt works would also be permitted to establish salt Upgradation plant for their captive use. The excess refining capacity if any available can be utilised for export and supply to Industrial units.
 - (iv) The units permitted for refining of salt for edible purpose should manufacture only iodised salt conforming to the specifications laid down under provision of PFA Act and the rules mad thereunder.
 - (v) The Government will have the right to specify the price, if necessary at which they can sell iodised salt.
 - (vi) In case it is considered essential by the government and if so required, the registered units shall maintain a percentage of production as prescribed by Government as minimum reserve and shall sell the salt produced to the person/ agency so authorized.
6. Application shall be made in the prescribed form in triplicate to be obtained from the Salt Commissioner office at Jaipur, A registration fee of Rs. 1000/- is required to be submitted alongwith the application form. For further details, Salt Commissioner's Office at Jaipur may be contacted.

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D.G.T.D.

Sd/-

(G.VENKATARAMAHAN)

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