

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY & PROMOTION**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2442.
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 31ST JULY, 2017.**

SALT EXPORTERS

2442. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the salt exporters are unwilling to continue owing to high labour levy on port handling charges and the labour levy for handling one tonne of salt is higher than other commercial crops like cashew nuts, sugar and wheat;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to boost the morale of salt exporters; and
- (c) the details thereof?

ANSWER

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)(श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)**

- (a): The Salt Manufacturers and Merchant Association, Tuticorin has on 20.06.2017 represented to the Chairman, VO Chidambaranar Port Trust (VOCPT), Tuticorin, requesting for reduction in Port wharfage and labour levy charges.

Salt is predominantly handled at Kandla Port Trust (KPT) and VOCPT. In KPT, wharfage charges are minimum on salt as compared to any other bulk cargo. Labour charges are also comparatively low (viz. Rs. 15.27 per MT on salt as compared to Rs. 36.84 per MT on rice and other food grains and Rs. 25.53 per MT on sugar). In VOCPT, cost of handling salt is lower as compared to other commercial crops. Total of wharfage charges and labour levy is Rs. 89.91 on salt as compared to Rs. 123.23 on sugar, Rs. 107.91 on cashew and Rs. 123.23 on wheat.

- (b) & (c): Considering the request of salt exporters, concession to the extent of 25% on wharfage and 50% in labour levy has been approved for salt export for cargo handled in excess of previous year tonnage handled, in V.O. Chidambaranar Port (VOCP). Accordingly, cost of handling of salt at VOCP has been reduced to Rs. 46.55 per MT for the current financial year.
