

PRESS NOTE

(Issued by the Ministry of Industries & supply, New Delhi)

Dated 23rd April 1948

Policy to set up salt production

(Small scale manufacture not subject to licensing)

1. The Government of India is formulating comprehensive measures to set up indigenous production of salt so that India attains complete self sufficiency in this vital commodity in as short time as possible. Details of the Government plan including a licensing system for large scale manufacturers to encourage production by co-operative societies will be released to the Press shortly.
2. Meanwhile Government considers that the first installment of the plan should be made public immediately so that small scale manufacturers may take full advantage of the current season.
3. Henceforth individuals or groups may freely produce salt in any land to which they have lawful accesses for this purpose and by whatsoever process they desire. i.e. construction of pans and solar evaporation or boiling of brine or scrapping or excavation of saline earth or natural formation of salt provided that the total areas of land covered by the salt works set up by any individual or group is not more than 10 acres. No licenses are needed and no applications for licensees need to be sent to any government authority in such cases. The provisions of the Central Excise and Salt act 1944 will not be stand in the way of the right to small scale manufacturer mentioned.
4. It will be appreciated that the Government's new policy is greatly in advance of the concession which was given as a result of the GANDHI-IRVIN pact in 1931 to the villagers. At that time the Government of India merely permitted manufacture and collection of salt by local residents of villages in immediately adjoining areas where salt could be collected or made. Even this small concession was hedged in with restrictions. The salt produced could not be sold for purpose of trade outside the village nor could it be carried except on foot. Under Government's new policy salt produced in units covering not more than 10 acres will not be subject to any restriction by way of storage, transport and scale.
5. As however salt has an influence on human health Government gives considerable importance to the quality of the salt produced by small scale manufacturer without license. While the high quality of salt produced by large scale factories will automatically set a standard inviting emulation by small scale manufacturer, government sever the right to take suitable preventive measures against the scale of unwholesome salt for human consumption.