

# **REPORT**

**OF**

## **THE SALT EXPERTS COMMITTEE**

**NEW DELHI**  
**1950**

PRINTED IN INDIA BY THE MANAGER GOVT. OF  
INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI AND PUBLISHED BY  
THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS DELHI 1950

*Price Re. 10 or 16s.*

## PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE

## C O N T E N T S

Chapter	Description	Page <sup>s</sup>
I	Introduction . . . . .	1—5
II	Occurrence, production and uses of salt . . . . .	6—10
III	Technology of salt manufacture . . . . .	11—26
IV	Factors effecting production of solar salt . . . . .	27—34
V	Manufacture of salt in India . . . . .	35—48
VI	Sambhar lake . . . . .	49—82
VII	Didwana . . . . .	83—96
VIII	Pachbadra . . . . .	97—105
IX	Kharaghoda . . . . .	106—130
X	Other inland sources . . . . .	131—140
XI	Mandi mines—rock salt . . . . .	141—155
XII	Kathiawad and Kutch . . . . .	156—169
XIII	Bombay . . . . .	170—195
XIV	Travancore . . . . .	196—212
XV	Madras . . . . .	213—261
XVI	Orissa . . . . .	262—284
XVII	West Bengal . . . . .	285—298
XVIII	Recovery of by-products . . . . .	299—309
XIX	Production, distribution and consumption of salt in India . . . . .	310—344
XX	Model factories and research stations . . . . .	345—359
XXI	Standardization and control of quality . . . . .	360—366
XXII	Salt administration . . . . .	367—387

## A P P E N D I C E S

A.	Questionnaire . . . . .	388—390
E.	1. Mutual solubilities of sodium carbonate ( $Na_2CO_3$ ) and sodium chloride ( $NaCl$ ) in 100 parts of solution (aqueous) at different temperatures.	391
	2. Mutual solubilities of magnesium chloride ( $MgCl_2$ ) and sodium chloride ( $NaCl$ ) in 100 parts of solution (aqueous) at different temperatures.	392
	3. Mutual solubilities of sodium chloride ( $NaCl$ ) and potassium chloride ( $KCl$ ) in 100 parts of solution (aqueous) at different temperatures.	393
	4. Mutual solubilities of sodium chloride ( $NaCl$ ) and sodium sulphate ( $Na_2SO_4$ ) in 100 parts of water ( $H_2O$ ) at different temperatures.	394—395

<b>APPENDICES—<i>contd.</i></b>	(ii)	
		<b>Pages</b>
C. Draft of the Indian Standards Institution for edible common salt . . . . .		396—400
D. Budgetary provision of payments to Indian States for 1949-50 on account of royalty and compensation. . . . .		401—402
E. Comparative statement of terms and conditions of license in different states. . . . .		403—424
F. Press note . . . . .		425
G. List of salt associations . . . . .		426
 BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .		427—428
JOURNALS . . . . .		429

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Description	Pages
I	Analysis of sea water from different sources	6
II	World production of salt in 1946	8
III	Solubility at 30°C (86°F) of the common components of brine	13
IV	Volumes of aqueous solutions of sodium chloride at different concentrations and temperatures	15
V	Density of sodium chloride solutions at different temperatures	16
VI	Separation of salts on progressive evaporation of sea water (Mediterranean)	18
VII	Separation of sodium chloride from sea water	19
VIII	Composition of salts obtained from bitters of different concentrations	20
IX	Composition of India sea, lake and well brines	21
X	Average monthly rainfall	29
XI	Relative humidity	30
XII	Indian production in 1930-31	35
XIII	Indian production in 1948	36
XIV	Calculated recovery of by-products (1948)	43
XV	Composition of lake mud at different depths	49
XVI	Composition of Sambhar, Didwana, Pachbadra and sea brines	50
XVII	Area of kyaars and yield per acre	54
XVIII	Composition of lake and canal brines	55
XIX	Production at Sambhar 1946-48	62
XX	Analysis of Sambhar salt	63
XXI	Programme of renovation and extension as proposed by Sambhar	65
XXII	Cost of production of kyar, reshta and pan salt at Sambhar 1946-47.	76
XXIII	Analysis of Didwana brine	83
XXIV	Analysis of Didwana salt	85
XXV	Analysis of anhydrous sodium sulphate	88
XXVI	Cost of production of Didwana salt (1946-47)	91
XXVII	Cost of Didwana sodium sulphate per ton	93
XXVIII	Composition of Pachbadra brines	98

Table No.	Description	Pages
<b>XXIX</b>	Composition of Pachbadra salt . . . . .	100
<b>XXX</b>	Cost of production at Pachbadra . . . . .	104
<b>XXXI</b>	Comparative composition of Kharaghoda and Sea Brines . . . .	109
<b>XXXII</b>	Production at Kharaghoda . . . . .	112
<b>XXXIII</b>	Analysis of Kharaghoda salt . . . . .	112
<b>XXXIV</b>	Estimate for pumps and tube wells at Kharaghoda . . . .	116
<b>XXXV</b>	Expenditure (per pan) incurred by agaras . . . . .	126
<b>XXXVI</b>	Cost of production at Kharaghoda . . . . .	127
<b>XXXVII</b>	Production at Kuda (1946-47 to 1948-49) . . . . .	132
<b>XXXVIII</b>	Composition of Kuda salt . . . . .	132
<b>XXXIX</b>	Cost of production at Kuda . . . . .	133
<b>XL</b>	Composition of Brines from Bharatpur, Kumhar and Dig . . . .	136
<b>XLI</b>	Analytical data of experimental production of salt at Sultanpur . . .	139
<b>XLII</b>	Production at Mandi mines, 1946-48 . . . . .	145
<b>XLIII</b>	Composition of Mandi salt . . . . .	146
<b>XLIV</b>	Area under salt cultivation and yield per acre in Kathiawad and Kutch . . . . .	158
<b>XLV</b>	Production in Kathiawad and Kutch, 1946-48 . . . . .	160
<b>XLVI</b>	Composition of Kathiawad and Kutch salt . . . . .	161
<b>XLVII</b>	Composition of Velan salt . . . . .	164
<b>XLVIII</b>	Cost of production in Kathiawad and Kutch, 1948 . . . .	167
<b>XLIX</b>	Salt works in Bombay . . . . .	170
<b>L</b>	Number of salt works and licensees and relative sizes of salt works . . . .	171
<b>LI</b>	Rainfall as recorded by Colaba Observatory, 1939-48 . . . .	172
<b>LII</b>	Production of Dharasana Circle, 1946-48 . . . . .	175
<b>LIII</b>	Composition of Dharasana and Chhatravada salt . . . . .	175
<b>LIV</b>	Production of salt in Bhayandar Circle, 1946-48 . . . . .	178
<b>LV</b>	Composition of Kupa salt in Dadar Range . . . . .	178
<b>LVI</b>	Production of salt in Bhandup Circle, 1946-48 . . . . .	180

Table No.	Description	Pages
LVII	Composition of salt in the Bhandup Circle . . . . .	180
LVIII	Composition of table salt and Kuppa salt in Shewa Range . . . . .	182
LIX	Production in the Uran Circle, 1946—48 . . . . .	183
LX	Composition of salt from Sanikatta Range . . . . .	184
LXI	Annual production of salt in Bombay, 1946—48 . . . . .	184
LXII	Production of different varieties of salt in Bombay, 1948—49 . . . . .	189
LXIII	Cost of production in Bombay . . . . .	191
LXIV	Estimated break-up of cost of production in Bombay . . . . .	192
LXV	Incidence of labour cost in Bombay . . . . .	192
LXVI	Salt works in Travancore . . . . .	197
LXVII	Production of salt in Travancore, 1946—48 . . . . .	200
LXVIII	Composition of Travancore salt . . . . .	200
LXIX	Composition of salt from the Model factory . . . . .	202
LXX	Cost of production in Travancore . . . . .	207
LXXI	Cost of production at the model factory . . . . .	208
LXXII	Salt factories in Madras . . . . .	217
LXXIII	Rainfall at Bhavanapadu, 1938—47 . . . . .	221
LXXIV	Production in Naupada Circle 1946—48 . . . . .	226
LXXV	Composition of salt in Naupada Circle . . . . .	226
LXXVI	Rainfall at Kanuparti, 1938—47 . . . . .	229
LXXVII	Production of salt in Pennuguduru Circle, 1946—48 . . . . .	231
LXXVIII	Composition of salt in Pennuguduru Circle . . . . .	232
LXXIX	Rainfall at Covelong (Madras), 1938—47 . . . . .	232
LXXX	Production of salt in Madras Circle, 1946—48 . . . . .	234
LXXXI	Composition of salt in Madras Circle . . . . .	235
LXXXII	Rainfall at Markanam, 1938—47 . . . . .	235
LXXXIII	Production of salt in Cuddalore Circle, 1946—48 . . . . .	238
LXXXIV	Composition of salt in the Cuddalore Circle . . . . .	238
LXXXV	Rainfall at Vedaranyam, 1940—49 . . . . .	239
LXXXVI	Composition of pit brine from Vedaranyam . . . . .	240

Table No.	Description	Pages
LXXXVII	Composition of swamp dust collected at Vedaranyam	240
LXXXVIII	Composition of spontaneous salt in Vedaranyam swamp	245
LXXXIX	Composition of salt from the works of Mettur Chemicals, Adirampatnam . . . . .	247
XC	Production of salt in Adirampatnam Circle, 1947-48 . . . . .	248-49
XCI	Rainfall at Karapad, 1938-48 . . . . .	249-50
XCII	Production of salt in Tuticorin Circle, 1946-48 . . . . .	252
XCIII	Composition of salt in Tuticorin Circle . . . . .	252
XCIV	Annual production of salt in Madras, 1946-48 . . . . .	253
XCV	Yield of salt per acre in Madras Circles . . . . .	253
XCVI	Estimated production in Madras Province . . . . .	256
XCVII	Break-up of cost of production in Madras Factories . . . . .	257
XCVIII	Rainfall in Balasore town, 1937-45 . . . . .	264-65
XCIX	Rainfall at Talpada (January to June), 1946-48 . . . . .	265-66
C	Rainfall at Chandbali, 1937-1945 . . . . .	267-68
CI	Rainfall at Puri, 1937-45 . . . . .	269
CII	Production of salt by Astarang Co-operative Society, 1943-48 . . . . .	270
CIII	Rainfall at Gopalpur . . . . .	273
CIV	Areas under salt cultivation in the Ganjam District . . . . .	273
CV	Cost of production at Huma, 1947 . . . . .	275
CVI	Cost of production at Gokhurkuda, 1947 . . . . .	276
CVII	Cost of production at Sumadi . . . . .	277
CVIII	Production in Ganjam district, 1946-48 . . . . .	277
CIX	Composition of salt produced in Ganjam factories . . . . .	278
CX	Production of salt in Orissa, 1946-49 . . . . .	278
CXI	Areas available for salt cultivation in Orissa . . . . .	280
CXII	Factories in West Bengal . . . . .	288
CXIII	Rainfall at Contai, 1938-47 . . . . .	289
CXIV	Production of salt by the Bengal Salt Company, 1946-48 . . . . .	290

Table No.	Description	Pages
CXV	Composition of Salt produced by the Bengal Salt Company . . . . .	290
CXVI	Rainfall at Saugor Island, 1871-1920 . . . . .	292
CXVII	Production of Salt by the Pioneer Salt Manufacturing Company Ltd., 1939-48 . . . . .	293
CXVIII	Production of Salt in Bengal, 1946-48 . . . . .	294
CXIX	Composition of Carnallite . . . . .	300
CXX	Average annual production of Magnesium Sulphate and Magnesium Chloride . . . . .	303
CXXI	Production of Byproducts at Mithapur, 1943-48 . . . . .	306
CXXII	Production and Import of Salt in India, 1931-49 . . . . .	311
CXXIII	Potential capacity of Inland Salt Works . . . . .	313
CXXIV	Potential Capacity of Marine Salt Works . . . . .	314
CXXV	Potential Capacity of Salt Works in India . . . . .	314
CXXVI	Composition of Indian Salt . . . . .	316
CXXVII	Average Holdings of Licensees . . . . .	319
CXXVIII	Capital Invested in the Salt Industry . . . . .	320
CXXIX	Labour employed in Salt Industry . . . . .	321
CXXX	Maximal distance of movement of Salt . . . . .	323
CXXXI	Off-take of Salt in percentage by different regions . . . . .	325-26
CXXXII	Supplies of Salt in percentage from the producing centres to different parts of India . . . . .	327-28
CXXXIII	Cost and selling price of Salt (Naked) Ex-Works . . . . .	330
CXXXIV	Prices of Salt (in bulk) Ex-Works in U. S. A. . . . .	331
CXXXV	Prices of Salt (Packed) in New York . . . . .	331
CXXXVI	Price of Salt (in bulk) Ex-Works in United Kingdom . . . . .	332
CXXXVII	Salt Prices (Packed) in India, 1949 . . . . .	332-3
CXXXVIII	Railway Freight Rates for Salt . . . . .	336
CXXXIX	Comparison of Railway Freight . . . . .	336
CXL	Total and <i>per capita</i> consumption of Salt in U. S. A. and India	

## (viii)

Table No.	Description	Pages
CXLI	Consumption of Salt by different Industries in U. S. A. and India . . . . .	340
CXLII	Target of consumption in India by 1955 . . . . .	341
CXLIII	Forecast of production of Salt in different centres, 1955-56 . . . . .	342
CXLIV	Reduction in volume of Sea Brine to different densities . . . . .	346
CXLV	Composition of evaporated Salt manufactured in U. K. . . . .	362
CXLVI	Composition of Crude and Refined Solar Salt from Utah (U. S. A.) . . . . .	362
CXI-VIT	Specification for Table Salt (for all household purposes) . . . . .	363
CXLVIII	Specification for Dairy Salt . . . . .	363
CXLIX	Specifications of Salt for specific uses . . . . .	364
CL	Average compositions of Salt for different uses . . . . .	364
CLI	Budgetted Administrative Expenditure of the Salt Department, 1949-50 . . . . .	374
CLII	Analysis of <i>bona fide</i> expenditure of Salt Department chargeable to Cess . . . . .	375

## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. No.	Description	Page	Paragraph
1	Solubilities of different Salts in Water	13 . . .	2. 3. 2
2	Sketch showing different types of Brine Wells in Use in America.	26 . . .	7. 2. 1
3	Geological Section of Sambhar Lake from Sambhar Hill to Gudha Hill.	51 . . .	1. 2. 1
4	Proposed Design for Percolation Canal	56 . . .	3. 3. 1
5	Diagramatic Sketch showing Cross-Section of a Pit at Pachbadra.	97 . . .	2. 1
6	Plan of the Kharaghoda Salt Works	108 . . .	3. 1
7	Vedaraniyam Swamp	243 . . .	3. 6. 5
8	India—showing Producing Centres of Salt and the Zones of Distribution (1949).	324 . . .	2. 2
9	Plan showing Layout of the Model Factory	351 . . .	1. 3. 8
10	Plan showing details of Condensers And Crystallisers.	352 . . .	1. 3. 8
11	Present Organisation of the Salt Department	368 . . .	1. 1
12	Proposed set up of the Salt Department	373 . . .	1.