

Sentinelese:—Two expeditions to the North Sentinel island have been made so far. One was in March, 1973 and the second in March, 1974. During the first expedition some Sentinelese were sighted and the expedition dropped gifts on the shore. The second expedition was more successful than the first in the sense that the Sentinelese allowed the party to drop the gifts within their sight and by gestures made it clear that they would like to have more gifts.

The Administration propose to continue with their policy of establishing contact, and be-friending both these hostile tribes.

Levyng of salt cess

537. SHRI RAMLAL PARIKH: Will -the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for levyng the salt cess on salt producers who manufacture salt on more than 100 acres of land;

(b) what amount has been paid by Gujarat to the Central Government -during 1961 to 1974; and

(c) the amount spent by the Central Government during the Third and Fourth Five Year Plan periods for the general development of the salt industry and for the labour welfare in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Cess is levied on salt under the Salt Cess Act, 1953 (No. 49 of 1953) for the purpose of raising funds to meet the expenses incurred on the salt organisation maintained by Government and on the measures taken by Government in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt.

(b) and (c) Amount of cess collected and expenditure incurred therefrom on general development and labour welfare activities was not kept

State-wise. However, figures for the year 1969-70 to 1974-75 are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Year	Amount of cess paid by Gujarat	Amount spent on developmental and labour welfare activities.
	Rs.	Rs.
1969-70	62,00,000	72,006.00
1970-71	63,00,000	13,738.00
1971-72	70,00,000	40,807.00
1972-73	72,00,000	26,402.00
1973-74	65,00,000	42,125.00
1974-75	77,00,000	Not yet ready.

Statutory Board for salt cess

538. SHRI RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a separate statutory board for the salt cess in order to make more efficient utilization and implementation of its revenue and projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): No, Sir.

Employees from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity

539. SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total strength of the employees in each class and category in the Directorate of Advertising and