

## **6. Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited**

Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (TNSC) was established during 1974 with view to provide employment and to improve the socio economic conditions of the people in the most backward Ramanathapuram District. This corporation was allotted with 5,520 acres of Government land, on long term lease basis. TNSC commenced its commercial production during 1978 and gradually started producing various kinds of fortified salts. This corporation is earning profit from 1990-91 and paid a dividend of Rs.3.25 crore and Royalty of Rs. 15.45 crore to the Government. The present turnover of this corporation increased up to Rs. 32 crore. This corporation has been providing employment to about 1350 workers directly and to about 300 workers indirectly to the people belonging to 15 villages.

### **Mission**

To give impetus to develop the backward region of Ramanathapuram District, for creating and providing employment opportunities for the weaker segments of the society, for the upliftment of the socio economic condition of the region, to exploit the potential resources of the sea for the production of salt, salt based by-products and Marine chemicals, to control and eliminate the commonly prevailing micronutrient deficiencies like Iron and Iodine disorders among the school going children, women and other general population in the state by the supplementation of Iron and Iodine through Iodised and Double Fortified salt.

### **Activities of the corporation**

#### **Launching of "Amma Salt"**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had launched the sale of AMMA Brand nutritious Double Fortified Salt (Iron and Iodine), Low sodium salt and refined free flow Iodised salt for the open market on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014. This was launched in the interest of the common people at affordable prices i.e. Double Fortified Salt at Rs.14 per kg, Low sodium salt at Rs.21 per kg and

Refined Free Flow Iodised salt at Rs.10 per kg., This is around Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 less than the open market price.

Subsequent to the overwhelming response and request from the public TNSC also introduced Crystal Iodised salt under the Brand name Amma salt from November 2014 at affordable price of Rs. 8 per kg. For the benefit of the public the above four varieties of AMMA SALT being distributed in all the Fair price Shops from February 2015. As on 31.7.2016, 27,068 tonnes of Amma Salt were sold in the open market and through Public Distribution System.

TNSC also launched the sale of AMMA SALT in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala states and it has been proposed to launch the sale of AMMA salt in all the other states. Further TNSC is also distributing AMMA salt in bulk packings 5 kg and 25 kg packings to benefit the bulk users like hospitals, hotels, and hostels etc.

### **Production of Industrial Grade Salt**

TNSC has been manufacturing around 1.50 lakh tonnes of good quality Industrial grade salt per annum. The quality of the salt produced by the Corporation is well accepted by the Chlor Alkali Industries in the neighboring states. Further, there is tremendous market potential for our Industrial Grade salt. Around 70% of salt production goes to industries and balance 30% to edible market.

### **Expansion Activities**

TNSC took **5520** acres of land from Govt. and utilized only **3200** acres up to 2010-2011. During 2012-13, TNSC took up the development of balance 2200 acres and completed the development works. The above developments completed at a cost of around 7 crore. With this developed area TNSC can scale up its production up to 2.75 lakh tonnes. TNSC installed 100 tonnes per hour capacity salt washery to improve the quality of salt at cost of 2.61 Crores. In order to produce value added products TNSC is in the process of

establishing a salt refinery to produce 40,000 tonnes of Refined Free Flow Iodised salt per year.

### **Production of Fortified Salts**

TNSC had initially produced only Industrial Grade Salt. Later the Corporation had expanded its activity over a period of time to produce Iodised salt, Di-Ethyl Corbomycine citrate salt used and cured Filariasis, Double Fortified (iron and iodine) Salt and Low sodium salts. TNSC is the pioneer in the production of Iron Fortified salt, commenced its Iron Fortified salt production from as early as 1987. At present TNSC has been supplying Fortified salt to the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh under Public Distribution system and Mid day meal schemes for the benefit of the common public and school going children.

### **Iodised Salt**

TNSC obtained Government orders for the distribution of Iodised Salt as an essential commodity through Public Distribution System for the benefit of the common public. Accordingly, TNSC has been supplying Iodised Salt to every nook and corner of the state including hill stations. By distributing Iodised Salt through PDS at an affordable price, there it has been a tremendous increase in the percentage of consumption of Iodised Salt among the population of below the poverty line people. The sale of Iodised salt during 2015-16 was 29,493 tonnes.

### **Double Fortified Salt**

TNSC is pioneer in the production of Double Fortified salt (Iron and Iodine). TNSC is producing Double Fortified Salt using the formulation developed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. As per this formulation, Ferrous Sulphate is used as nutritive agent and Sodium Hexa meta phosphate is used as stabilizing agent.

The Double Fortified Salt is being supplied to the Mid Day Meal scheme of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. On an average, 3000 tonnes of Double Fortified Salt is being supplied to the above schemes. Also during 2015-16

270 tonnes of Double Fortified salt supplied to Uttar Pradesh for the Aksharadasa scheme.

### **Benefits of Double Fortified salt**

Anemia is the major disease that is caused due to the deficiency of Iron vitamin in the human body. Over 25% of men, 55% of women and 73% of children in India are iron deficient. Consumption Double Fortified salt will control the Anemia.

### **Low Sodium Salt**

Further TNSC is also producing Low sodium salt for the benefit of the heart patients. The sale of Low sodium salt in the open market was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 11.06.2014. TNSC marketing this health salt at affordable price in the open market. TNSC sold 38 tonnes of Low Sodium salt during 2015-16.

### **Di-ethyl Carbomycine citrate salt (DEC SALT)**

TNSC produced and supplied salt fortified with Di-ethyl Carbomycine citrate through Health Department to eradicate filariasis in Kanyakumari District. During 2015-16, TNSC supplied 24 tonnes of DEC salt to Andaman and Nicobar Islands through Vector Control Department, Government of India.

### **Universal Salt Iodisation programme**

Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation has been taken active participation in the above World Health Organization's programme. TNSC supplied 5, 76,678 tonnes of Fortified salt from 1991 to 2015 for the benefit of the common public.

### **Other activities of the corporation**

#### **Production of Bromine**

TNSC has entered into a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with M/s South India Bromine and Allied Chemicals (SIBAC), Tuticorin for the production of bromine a by-product of salt by supplying the waste water

(Bittern) let out after salt production. As per the arrangement, TNSC is earning an income of Rs.8,00,000 to Rs.10,00,000 per annum.

### **E-Governance**

Under the Good Governance and Best Practices scheme , Department of Electronics and Information Technology , Government of India has sanctioned Rs.76 lakhs for providing end to end computerized solution to Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation. All the works in this project completed and this will be implemented shortly.

### **Development of new salt works**

TNSC proposes to obtain the potential salt lands in Villupuram, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam Districts from the government and develop salt works to increase the production of salt in Tamil Nadu. For this purpose, Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation taking action to obtain 7,300 acres of land in the above districts.

### **Major Achievements**

1. For the first time in India, TNSC produced and supplied Iron Fortified Salt from 1991 to the Noon meal programme.
2. Double Fortified salt (salt fortified with Iron and Iodine) was introduced in the year 2001.
3. TNSC has been distributing crystal iodised salt at the lowest price through Public Distribution System.
4. TNSC achieved its highest production of 1,78,675 tonnes of Industrial grade salt during the year 2012.
5. Annual Salt production capacity has been increased from 1.75 lakhs tones to 3 lakh tone by commencing the production of Industrial Grade Salt in the additional developed area of 2200 acres of land.
6. Launched AMMA salt in four varieties ie., Refined Free Flow Iodised salt, Double Fortified salt , Low Sodium salt and Crystal Iodised salt in the open market at affordable price.

7. 100 Tonnes per hour capacity salt washery installed in Mariyur Valinokkam Salt complex to upgrade the quality of the salt produced. This type of washery was installed for the first time in Tamil Nadu. This will enable Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation to market its produce with better margin. And there is vast scope for exporting the washed salt to foreign countries.

### **Credentials of TNSC**

TNSC obtained ISO 9001:2008 certificates for Quality Management system for the production and supply of Industrial grade salt and Fortified salts. The corporation has obtained IS 7224:2006 certificate from Bureau of Indian Standards for the Manufacture of Iodised salt. Obtained IS 12981:1991 certificate from Bureau of Indian Standards for manufacturing Double fortified salt. The Corporation has obtained a certificate from Food Safety Standard Association of India (FSSAI) for the quality production of Iodised salt and Double Fortified salt.

### **Awareness campaign for the Iodised salt**

To create more awareness on the usage of Iodised salt and its benefits, TNSC taking various measures by providing advertisement materials like pamphlets, posters, danglers etc. Further TNSC has come out with attractive audio and visual advertisement materials to promote Amma Salt.

### **UNICEF Assistance**

Assistance of Rs.102 lakh from the international Organization namely UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund for increasing the sale of Iodised salt and Double Fortified salt by imparting training to PDS sales men, conducting live Radio Programme and street plays in the districts to create awareness of Iodised salt. UNICEF is continuously assisting Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation for creating awareness to public on the importance of Iodised salt. For the current year, UNICEF has given consent for assisting for awareness creation programme for Double Fortified salt.

## **Support from TATA trust**

In order to increase the production of Double Fortified salt and expand the market for the Double fortified salt TATA trust came forward to assist Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation in setting up of the salt refinery. TATA trust granted Rs. 4 crore for the setting up of salt refinery. Further the TATA trust given its consent to assist TNSC for creating awareness for the usage of Double Fortified salt and assured to increase the market demand for the Double Fortified salt.

## **R & D Activities**

TNSC is giving at most importance to upgrade the quality of its products through R & D activities. All its products are subjected to rigorous quality control tests, for which a well equipped laboratory has been established at MVSC, Valinokkam. With the help of GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) TNSC installed two modern laboratories, one at valinokkam and other one at Corporate office, Chennai at a cost of Rs.25 lakh in order to improve the quality. At the laboratory set up at Corporation Office, the finished products of TNSC and the raw material to be required for the production of Fortified Salt are being tested.

## **Action Plan for 2016-2017**

1. TNSC planned to produce 2,50,000 tonnes of Industrial grade salt and 5,00,50 tonnes of Fortified salt during 2016-17.
2. TNSC planned to commission 7 tonnes per hour capacity salt refinery during 2016 and to be completed by November 2016 which will enable TNSC to produce 30,000 tonnes of Refined Free Flow Iodised salt and 10,000 tonnes of Double Fortified salt per annum.
3. TNSC has planned to distribute around 1,000 tonnes of Double Fortified salt in the PDS system at affordable price to benefit the common public.

4. TNSC has proposal to provide training to the salt workers in leading salt manufacturing state like Gujarat to educate themselves on the latest techniques in the salt production and to produce quality salt.

### **Labour Welfare Activities**

TNSC has extended various welfare measures like providing purified RO water, Tea & Biscuits at their work spot, to the workers. Besides safety items like Sun goggles, light weight gumboots are also provided to the workers every year to protect them from the hot sun.

TNSC has been extending all statutory benefits to its salt workers. TNSC is conducting periodical medical health camps to take care of the health condition of the salt workers.

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility, TNSC has provided furniture like tables and benches to the schools which are situated in the villages in and around of the factory in Valinokkam. During the year 2015-2016, TNSC has paid a sum of Rs 2 lakh for conducting a Book fair at Ramanathapuram by the Ramanathapuram District Administration.