

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:473
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
EXPORT OF SUB STANDARD TEA
CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI

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

- (a) whether India lost its tea export market in Libya due to allegedly supplying sub-standard tea, which was not fit for human consumption;
- (b) if so, whether an enquiry was held in this matter;
- (c) if so, the action taken against the erring persons; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d): Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Exports of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows:-

Year Quantity in m.kgs.

1996	0.05
1997	1.65
1998	6.98
1999	Nil
2000	3.63

Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 brought to the notice of the Ministry regarding supply of un-satisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply Corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter.

Tea Board initially obtained comments of the Indian exporter on the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter Licence granted under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order 1957. The Indian exporter, in reply to the show cause notice has stated that he has not received any complaint directly from NASCO in Tripoli. Tea Board has therefore requested Embassy of India, Tripoli to obtain and forward a copy of the written complaint, if any, against the exporter by NASCO. In the light of this incident Tea Board will ensure that such things do not occur in future.