

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:732  
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003  
TEA PRODUCTION IN NORTH REGION  
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

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

- (a) whether with early showers in April this year, tea production is set to increase in the North including Assam;
- (b) if so, the likely tea production in different sectors this year compared to last two years;
- (c) whether mood amongst tea planters is not upbeat despite rich production prospects due to low prices fetched at the auction markets in Assam and other markets; and
- (d) if so, the average prices of tea fetched in different markets during the past four months and the extent to which the same compares with the respective cost of production?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b) : The production of tea during April-May 2003-04 in North India, including Assam, registered an increase of 20.82 million kgs as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year which may be seen in the following table.

(figures in million Kgs).

Region	2003-04 (April-May)	2002-03 (April-May)	Increase(+) or Decrease(-)
Assam	67.31	51.11	(+) 16.20
Other North India	35.72	31.10	(+) 4.62
Total North India	103.03	82.21	(+) 20.82

If the present trend continues, the production of tea in North India, including Assam, for the complete financial year 2003-04 may reach 670 million kgs, as compared to 641.16 million kgs in 2002-03 and 648.45 million kgs during 2001-02.

(c): Yes Sir. The tea planters in India including Assam are facing problems due to depressed prices of tea at the auctions for the last 3-4 years as also in the current year so far. Till prices do not improve, the rich production of tea is not expected to better the prospects of the tea planters.

(d): The average price of tea sold at North and South Indian auction centres for the first three months (April-June) of the current financial year i.e 2003-04 together with the cost of production is furnished below:

(Figures in Rs/Kg)

(April-June)

Region	2003-04 Price Range	2002-03 Cost of Productio	Price Range	Cost of Production
North India	55 to 90	65 to 70	55 to 90	60 to 65
South India	35 to 65	55 to 60	35 to 70	50 to 55

