

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6740
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
PRODUCTION IN PLANTATION SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of coffee, tea, rubber and pepper in India during the last three years, commodity-wise alongwith the area under cultivation;
- (b) the price obtained by farmers for these crops, year-wise during the past three years;
- (c) whether the government is aware that the farmers and plantation workers are facing huge problems resulting in reduction in production of these commodities;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government to solve the problems faced by the farmers and plantation workers;
- (e) whether poverty deaths have occurred in some plantation areas; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): Production of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Pepper (in thousand tonnes) was as given below:

Commodity	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Coffee	275.27	270.50	275.50#
Tea	837.60	850.49	765.15
Rubber	649.43	711.65	750.00 @
Pepper	63.95	N/A	N/A

#Final estimates. Till January, 2005 @ provisional

The Area Under Cultivation (in Hectares) (approx.) was :

	Coffee	Tea	Rubber	Pepper
	354840	517655	578000	213870

As per latest available information

(b): The year-wise price of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Pepper (in Rs.kg.) was as follows:

Year	Coffee (Plantation A)	Coffee (Robusta Cherry AB)	Tea
2002	56.86	27.92	55.95
2003	56.18	33.58	56.03
2004	72.16	34.94	64.57

Year	Rubber	Pepper
2002-03	39.19	88.32
2003-04	50.40	74.11
2004-05	55.71	69.16

(c): There is no such significant reduction in production.

(d) to (f): Some cases of suicides have been reported in the past in the plantation areas due to financial difficulties; however, various other socio-economic reasons may also be responsible for such cases.

Measures taken to help the tea growers include the withdrawal of the additional duty of excise of Re.1 per kg on tea in the Union Budget for 2005-06, setting up of a special fund with collections of additional duty of excise on tea of Re. 1 per kg during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the long term development and modernisation of the tea plantation sector, implementation of a Special Tea Term Loan (STTL) for the tea sector, implementation of a price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a four month period from February to May 2004, implementation of a price sharing formula between small tea growers and manufacturers of tea w.e.f. 1.4.2004 etc.

Measures taken to help the coffee growers include re-phasing/restructuring of loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks by way of Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) and interest subsidy to large and small coffee growers on repayment of working capital loans taken from financial institutions.

Government has approved Rubber Plantation Development Scheme for implementation during the tenth plan. Government of India has set up a Price Stabilisation Fund for the benefit of growers of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Tobacco.

Government also implements through the various Boards welfare programmes and activities for the benefit of the workers and their dependants.