

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:190

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2005

QUALITY OF TEA

Barman Shri Hiten;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

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

- (a) whether any special fund has been set up for promotion of tea industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details with regard to the export of tea during the last three years;
- (d) whether any complaint over the quality of Indian tea has been registered by any international organisation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard;
- (f) whether the quality of tea produced particularly in South India has gone down; and
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government to improve quality of tea?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) & (b): A special fund has been created with the Additional Excise Duty of Re.1 per kg collected on tea during 2003-04 and 2004-05. Government has also sanctioned two schemes viz. incentive for production of orthodox teas and assistance to the two Research & Development Institutions in tea with an estimated outlay of Rs.93 crores for financing from this special fund.

(c) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 FOR ANSWER ON 6th DECEMBER 2005 REGARDING QUALITY OF TEA.

(c): Details of export of tea during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Quantity (Million kg)	Value (Rs. Crores)	Value (US\$ Million)
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2002-2003	184.40	1665.04	344.05
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2003-2004	183.07	1636.99	363.78
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2004-2005	205.82	1924.71	429.10
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(d): No such complaint has been received from any International organisation.

(e): Does not arise.

(f) & (g) : The quality of tea depends upon the quality of green tea leaf plucked & supplied and the manufacturing practices followed by the factories. It has come to notice that the quality of tea, particularly in South India, has been affected due to dilution in the plucking standards and the poor manufacturing practices followed by some factories. In order to address issues of quality, the Tea Board had launched a Quality Awareness Programme in July 2000 in the Nilgiris and it is being continued till date. Through this programme, the growers are educated regarding the need for adopting good plucking standards and the factory owners of adopting good manufacturing practices. Over 2500 village level campaigns and training programmes of small tea growers have been organized under the programme. Numerous factory level experiment-cum-demonstrations have been conducted. Besides organizing various seminars, innovative publicity measures have been initiated. In addition to the above, various efforts have been initiated by the Tea Board to enforce quality norms which conforms to standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, including action against those factories which have been found to have produced substandard teas.

In an effort to maintain quality and retain the brand equity of Indian teas, the Government has issued a new Tea (Distribution and

Export) Control Order, 2005 under the provisions of the Tea Act, 1953 on 1.4.2005 in supersession of the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 1957. The new Order prescribes strict norms for tea and all teas, whether imported or exported, would be required to conform to the specifications cited in the new Order.