

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004  
LOW QUALITY OF TEA IMPORT  
Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether there are adequate measures for check on quality of tea imported for domestic use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether low quality tea is coming to India from Sri Lanka and other countries,
- (d) whether this is being mixed with Indian Tea and exported; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to check such types of re-export?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Teas imported for domestic use are required to conform to the specification for tea as laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954(PFA Act) and the Rules framed thereunder. The imported food items including tea are required to be referred by the concerned Custom Authority to Port Health Officers for testing under the PFA Act, 1954.

(c) & (d): Imported teas are allowed to be blended with Indian teas and re-exported after positive value addition by the exporters provided they conform to the contractual obligations and also conform to the standards as applicable for import in the importing country. These exports are required to fulfill the provisions as laid down in the Tea

(Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957. An instance has recently come to notice of poor quality tea having reportedly been imported for re-export.

(e): The importing country is free to impose its own requirements and conditions in respect of the quality and standards for teas imported by them and engage its own Inspecting Agency to ensure compliance. To ensure better surveillance on quality of tea exports, Tea Board have proposed certain provisions and regulations under the Tea Act 1953.