

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:917
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
PRODUCTION OF TEA
Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) the production of tea during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether tea production has decreased during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether this shortfall is likely to affect the tea industry in the country; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of tea in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : The production of tea during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise is as under :-

(figures in Million Kgs.)
States 2004-05 2005-06# 2006-07# 2005-06#
 (April-May) (April-May)

Assam	446.05	475.68	55.82	61.08
West Bengal	215.52	216.05	25.70	31.68
Others	12.00	12.19	0.76	0.75
Total North India	673.57	703.92	82.28	93.51
Tamil Nadu	161.48	154.65	28.58	33.67
Kerala	66.08	66.94	14.25	16.02
Karnataka	5.71	5.34	0.82	1.00
Total South India	233.27	226.93	43.65	50.69
All India	906.84	930.85	125.93	144.20

#Estimated and subject to revision

(b) & (c): Owing to adverse weather conditions - drought in South India and heavy rains in Assam - the tea production in India has marginally declined during April-May 2006 as compared to the corresponding period of 2005.

(d) : The shortfall in crop during April-May, 2006-07 is unlikely to affect the tea industry in the country because this shortage can be bridged during the peak cropping season from June to November when more than 70% of the crop is harvested in the northern plantations.

(e) : A number of developmental schemes are already being implemented by the Tea Board during the 10th Five Year Plan for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country under which financial and technical assistance is provided for undertaking replantation, rejuvenation, and new planting in non-traditional areas, creation of irrigation facilities, setting up of self help groups among the small tea growers, modernization of factories, etc. The Government is also examining ways and means of introducing a programme for massive re-plantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The detailed costing and modalities for funding the programme including setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund is under examination.