

Title: Need to look into the problems being faced by tea plantation workers and farmers in the country, particularly in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Sir, the tea plantation workers and farmers of my Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency and other parts of tea growing States in the country are suffering very much due to the present down trend in the price of tea resulting in not getting minimum support price for green leaves.

The following remedial measures should immediately be taken:-

1. The Minimum Support Price for green leaves should be increased from Rs.2 to Rs.5 per kilogram.
2. The export excise duty for tea should be zero as an export promotion measure and to save the domestic tea industry.
3. The import of tea from various foreign countries should be banned or dumping duty should be heavily imposed on import of tea.
4. The excise duty may be withdrawn to company estates also as at present it is applicable only to co-operative and private tea factories in Tamil Nadu.