

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004  
TEA PRICE  
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether there has been decline in price of tea since 2000 in whole sale market;
- (b) if so, the details thereon;
- (c) retail price of tea during this period; and
- (d) steps taken to prevent cartels and price fixers controlling action?

**Answer**

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

(a): The prices of tea sold at Indian auctions have registered a decline since 2000.

(b) & (c): Details of average auction prices of tea sold at Indian auctions and the average prices of tea in retail markets since 2000 are given below:-

Year	Average prices of tea at Indian auctions (Rs. per kg) centres (Rs. per kg)	Approximate average prices of tea at retail market covering 5 major
2000	61.71	110
2001	61.66	120
2002	55.99	120
2003	55.97	120

(d): Tea auctions which cover a substantial part of the wholesale tea trade operate under the provisions of Tea Marketing Control Order, 2003. Directives issued by the Tea Board, under the said Control Order, aim at ensuring greater transparency in the conduct of the sale transactions for fair price discovery.