

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5393  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2000  
TEA GROWERS OF ASSAM  
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) : whether a large number of tea growers in Assam have dumped huge quantum of green leaf tea in the Brahmaputra river;
- (b) : if so, whether the tea growers are facing crisis with the big tea companies abruptly lowering the prices of green leaf tea; and
- (c) : if so, the steps taken by the Government to help these tea growers in Assam?.

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (c) : No, Sir. The price of tea leaves depends upon the quality and the prevailing auction price. The selling price of green leaf during August 2000 in the Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Districts of Assam varied from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10.00 per kg. However, some sporadic selling of green leaf at Rs.4/- to Rs.5/- per kg. has been reported at Moran in Dibrugarh District. The quality of this leaf was poor and quality manufacturers refused to buy such coarse leaf.

A number of small growers development schemes are being operated by the Tea Board under which financial assistance is provided for new tea plantations. Tea Board also provides financial assistance to Assam Agricultural University/UPASI for imparting training to the small growers and organizing Advisory Programmes etc. A Quality Upgradation Programme has also been finalized for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers.