

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:668

ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000

PRODUCTION OF TEA

SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

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

- (a) the production and export of tea during 1999-2000 in comparison to each of the last three years;
- (b) the consumption of tea within the country;
- (c) the gap between demand and production of tea in the country;
- (d) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of tea during 1999-2000;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the foreign exchange earned from the export of tea and the loss of revenue, in term of rupee, due to fall in export of tea this year?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 668 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.5 REGARDING PRODUCTION OF TEA

(a) to (b) : Production, export and consumption of tea during the last four years were as follows:-

(figures in mn. kgs)

Year	Production	Export	Consumption
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1996-97	786.62	169.04	626
1997-98	834.88	211.26	636
1998-99	850.25	205.86	648
1999-2000	816.06	188.91	657

(c) : The gap between demand and production of tea during 1999-2000 was (-) 29.85 m.kgs. However, taking into account the closing stock of the previous year, there was a surplus of 31.88 m.kgs as on 30.3.2000.

(d) to (e) : Export of tea declined by 16.95 m.kgs during 1999-2000 compared to the exports during the previous year. The decline has been because of various factors such as stiff competition from other producing and exporting countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia and Kenya; country specific problems concerning Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Turkey etc.

(f) : The foreign exchange earned from the export of tea during 1999-2000 is estimated at Rs. 1795.36 crores which is Rs.396.02 crores lower than the foreign exchange earned during the previous year.