

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
TEA PRODUCTION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether tea production is expected to fall during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the production would be less during this year as compared to 2001-2002;
- (c) the reasons for lower production of tea in the Southern States; and
- (d) the steps proposed to ensure that adequate tea is available in the market for the common man?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70, ANSWER ON 22/11/2002, REGARDING TEA PRODUCTION

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. The production of tea in India during 2002-03 (April-September) has shown a decline of 30.10 million kgs in comparison with the same period of 2001-02. The total tea production during the complete financial year 2002-03 is expected to be less by 15 to 20 million kgs as compared to the production of 847 million kgs during 2001-02.

(c) The tea growing areas in the Southern States were hit by severe drought and as a result the production of tea in these States suffered a decline of 5.89 million kgs during April-September, 2002 as compared to April-September, 2001.

(d) The Government and the Tea Board are implementing various developmental Schemes to increase production and productivity of tea in the country to meet domestic requirements. These Schemes include extension of planting in traditional tea growing areas and new planting in non-traditional areas, replantation, rejuvenation pruning, infilling and consolidation of existing tea areas and productivity enhancement through intensive pruning of small holdings, incentives for production of organic teas, green teas and other special teas. Tea Board provides essential R&D support to the tea gardens. These Schemes also provide for extending financial assistance by way of long term loans, subsidy and grant in aid. The current production of tea is adequate to meet domestic demand.