

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6719

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005

TEA TRADE

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

- (a) whether tea imports touched an all times high of 30 million kg. in calendar year -2004;
- (b) if so, the details of tea imports made during the year 2004 alongwith expenditure incurred thereon, country-wise;
- (c) the details of the present tea auction centres in India and whether there is any proposal to set up more auction centres;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Chinese tea industry closely studied tea auction system to replicate it in their country;
- (f) if so, its likely effect on Indian Tea Industry;
- (g) whether a high level Chinese delegation visited Siliguri recently and invited tea manufacturers to set up plants in China;
- (h) if so, the details in this regard;
- (i) whether China is keen to import black tea from India and export green tea to India in exchange;
- (j) if so, the details thereof;
- (k) whether any agreement has been signed with any country on tea trade; and
- (l) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b): The total tea imports into India during 2004 was 30.52 million kg. Details of major country-wise imports of tea during 2004 along with value of imports are given below:

Name of the Country    Volume ( in million kg)    Value    (Rs. in crores)

Vietnam	17.28	56.27	
Kenya	3.30	27.12	
Nepal	2.86	16.84	
Indonesia	2.65	15.30	
China	1.67	6.22	
Papua New Guinea	0.52		2.96
Sri Lanka	0.47	3.78	
Malawi	0.38	2.50	
Argentina	0.36	1.58	
Turkey	0.30	1.02	
Iran	0.24	0.72	
United Kingdom	0.16		2.26
USA	0.12	0.55	
Germany	0.11	1.60	
Others	0.10	0.71	

Total            30.52            139.43

(c) & (d): Nine tea auction centers are operating in India at present. These are at Kolkata, Siliguri, Guwahati, Jalpaiguri, Amritsar, Cochin, Coimbatore and Coonoor (There are two auction centers at Coonoor including the Tea Serve auction). There is no specific proposal to open any new auction centre at present.

(e) to (h): A group from the tea industry of China visited India recently and held discussions with various segments of Indian tea industry. As per the information available, the team interacted with tea brokers to have a preliminary idea of the Indian auction system. There is no specific information regarding any offer made by them to Indian manufacturers to set up plants in China.

(i) & (j): A few Indian tea exporters have been discussing with importers in China for exporting black teas from India.

(k): No Sir.

(l): Does not arise.