

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:592

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009

TEA EXPORTS

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

- (a) whether India has identified nations to give a major thrust to tea exports and capturing a major share of the world market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with any of the identified countries for export of tea;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the countries importing tea from India have been insisting on the reduction of the price for different varieties of tea;
- (f) if so, the extent to which the export of tea has been affected by this; and
- g) the steps taken by the Government to promote production and export of tea?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The following 22 countries have been identified as thrust export markets for Indian tea.

Russia, U.K., Pakistan, USA, Egypt, Japan Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Poland, Dubai, Syria, Germany, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Sudan, France, South Africa, Chile, Ireland and Netherlands.

The Tea Exports to major countries from India is at Annexure I & II.

(c) & (d): The Memorandum of Understanding of the 15th Session of the Joint commission between the Republic of India and the Islamic republic of Iran was signed between the two governments during 1-2 November, 2008 in Tehran. The salient features of this MOU included easing of the restrictions imposed by the Iran health Ministry on tea imports. A Joint Statement was issued after the Fourth Round of India-Pakistan Commerce Secretary level talks on Economic & Commercial Cooperation within the framework of the composite Dialogue held on 31st July-1st August, 2007 in New Delhi, which includes holding of trade exhibitions in each others countries, to facilitate the movement of cargo by rail and opening up for freight movement by introducing a new rail route.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.

(g): The steps taken by the Government to promote production and export of teas is given below:-

**Production of Tea**

- i. New planting by the Small Growers
- ii. Replanting, Rejuvenation pruning, infilling and consolidation of existing tea areas,
- iii. Creation of irrigation and drainage facilities in the tea gardens,
- iv. Organising Selp Help Groups of small growers
- v. Setting up of new factories, modernization of existing factories, creation of new facilities for product diversification, ISO/HACCP Certification and Quality Awareness Programme.
- vi. R & D support to tea gardens,
- vii. Training of Tea Plantation Workers, Managers

viii. Welfare measures covering health, sanitation, drinking water, medical care, education of wards of workers etc.

ix. It is also proposed to set up three quality testing laboratories in order to facilitate the exporters to ensure the export of tea consignments conforming to the quality standards.

#### Export of Tea

The Board undertakes promotional activities in the foreign markets and also lends support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts. Such activities are carried by Board through its overseas offices at London, Moscow and Dubai undertake the following activities:

- (i) Participation in international and/or specialized fairs and exhibitions.
- (ii) Field sampling at speciality stores and/or principal markets.
- (iii) Media publicity.
- (iv) Buyer Seller Meets.
- (v) P.R. activities to establish closer link between importers and exporters.
- (vi) Exchange of tea delegations between India and Tea importing countries.

Transport subsidy is being provided to tea exporters towards meeting the additional transport and handling charges incurred for teas exported through I.C.D., Amingaon in Assam to increase the overall export of tea from India.