

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:263

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005

TEA PRODUCTION

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Rijju Shri Kiren

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

- (a) whether the productivity of the tea sector across the major producing nations has been going down year-by-year;
- (b) if so, details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether the yield per hectare of Indian tea has declined from 19,164 kg per hectare in 2001 to 18,989 kg per hectare in 2004;
- (d) if so, the main reasons for the same and efforts being made to improve its productivity;
- (e) whether the Government propose to promote production of tea in Uttaranchal; and
- (f) if so, details thereon and amount allocated therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a): Among 32 tea producing countries in the world, nearly 81% of the world production is accounted for by six countries namely India, China, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia and Turkey. Tea being an agricultural crop, the annual production and productivity would also depend upon the climatic conditions. While there was fluctuation in the productivity on year to year basis, there was no significant decline in productivity.

(b) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 263 FOR ANSWER ON 22nd MARCH, 2005 REGARDING TEA PRODUCTION.

(b): Details of productivity of tea during 2001, 2002 and 2003 in the six major tea producing countries are as follows:-

(Yield in kg of made tea per hectare)

Name of the Country 2001 2002 2003

India	1675	1602	1657
China	615	657	636
Sri Lanka	1568	1652	1611
Kenya	2239	2051	2235
Indonesia	1120	1116	1084
Turkey	1864	1854	2022

(c): The productivity of tea which was 1675 kg per hectare in 2001 came down to 1657 kg per hectare in the year 2003.

(d): One of the main reasons for near stagnation in the productivity of tea in India is the old age of the tea plantations. Nearly 38% of the existing tea bushes have crossed the economic threshold age of 50 years and another 9% are in the age group of 40 to 50 years. To address this problem and raise the national productivity of tea, it is proposed to take up a massive replantation programme covering an area of 2.12 lakh hectares over the next 15 years. The detailed costing and modalities of funding such a large programme are under examination of the Government.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): Tea Board has set up an office at Almora to provide guidance and financial assistance for various developmental activities. Government of Uttaranchal has also established a Tea Development Board for the development of tea industry in the State.

As a prelude to large scale cultivation of tea in various parts of the State, on the advice of Tea Board, the State Government has set up two nucleus plantations one each at Kausani in Bageswar District and at Nauti in Chamoli District under the Uttaranchal Tea Development Project of 1994. The physical target set for the nucleus plantations was 200 hectares per district (total 400 hectares). Tea Board has extended a subsidy of Rs.75.09 lakhs for the planted area of 227.68 hectares under this project.

For enhancing the production of tea in Uttaranchal, the State Government has identified 9000 hectares for planting tea over a period of 15 years. The estimated cost for planting tea in the identified area of 9000 hectares is around Rs.480 crores. During the 10th Plan period, under its Tea Plantation Development Scheme, Tea Board's subsidy is available for the area to be planted. Financial support is also being extended by the Tea Board for setting up of self-help groups by the small tea growers. Tea Board has also provided a grant for setting up of a Tea Research Station at Govind Ballav Pant University, Pant Nagar. Further, in order to rejuvenate the old tea areas in the State, the Uttaranchal Tea Development Board has set up a committee.

Specific allocation, State-wise, is not made in the Annual Plan of the Tea Board. If the applicants fulfill the conditions of the scheme, subsidy is granted after ensuring that planting has been carried out satisfactorily.