

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2816
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010
E AUCTION BY TEA BOARD
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Tea Board has recently announced e-auction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the export of tea is likely to be enhanced through e-auction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which exports are likely to increase due to e-auction?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. The re-designed E-Auction system has been started by the Tea Board in April, 2009 in 6 auction centres viz. Coimbatore, Cochin, Coonoor, Kolkata, Siliguri and Guwahati. While it is fully functional in three South Indian centres and in Guwahati, the other two centres are partly functional. It provides online trading facilities to the buyers obviating the necessity to be physically present at the time of bidding in various auction centres. The system provides better returns to the growers besides being transparent and user-friendly.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. Since the objective of introducing e-auction system is to ensure transparency as also to reduce the transaction time and costs, it is expected that the throughput through the e-auction system will be enhanced thus increasing the purchases from e-auction for the purpose of exports.