

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:18

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010

PROMOTION OF TEA SECTOR

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) the details regarding production and export of tea during the last three years;
- (b) the details regarding percentage growth/decline in production and export of tea during the above period;
- (c) whether Kenya and Sri Lanka have emerged as big competitors for India in the global tea market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost production and export of tea;
- (f) whether a large number of tea estates are lying closed/abandoned in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken for revival of these tea estates and assistance to the small tea growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a)to g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 18 FOR ANSWER ON 26TH JULY 2010 REGARDING "PROMOTION OF TEA SECTOR"

(a) and (b): The details regarding production and export of tea during the last three years along with percentage growth/decline are as under:-

Financial Year	Production (Million Kgs.)	Percentage growth(+) /decline(-) over previous year	Exports (Million Kgs.)	Percentage growth(+) /decline(-) over previous year	Exports value (Million US\$)	Percentage growth(+) /decline(-) over previous year
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2007-08	987.02	+1.43	185.32	-15.05	469.59	+3.94
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2008-09	972.77	-1.44	190.64	+2.87	518.04	+10.32
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2009-10 (E)	991.18	+1.89	200.24	+5.04	571.29	+10.28
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(E) Estimated and subject to revision.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. On an average, the respective shares of Kenya, Sri Lanka in total world exports are 22% and 18% and the share of India is around 12%. Both Kenya and Sri Lanka export nearly all their production since they have a negligible domestic market, unlike India, which is the world's largest consumer of black tea.

(e): Government of India through Tea Board, Kolkata is taking various steps to boost the production and export of tea which include (i) new planting, replanting & rejuvenation, irrigation & drainage, quality upgradation, research & development, training and assistance to small tea growers, etc. and

(ii) conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets and also lending promotional support to Indian Tea exporters in their marketing efforts.

(f) and (g) : No, Madam. There were only 33 listed closed tea gardens as on 01.04. 2007. Two more gardens in Darjeeling district of West Bengal were closed after 01.04.2007 taking the total number to 35. Of these, 23 gardens have been reopened. Thus, only 12 tea gardens are reported to be closed as on 01.07.2010. These include 7 in West Bengal and 5 in Kerala. The Government of India has announced a rehabilitation package to the extent of Rs.38.65 crore for revival of closed tea gardens. Financial assistance is extended to small growers under the 11th Plan schemes for field inputs, establishment of proper leaf collection systems, transport vehicles, setting up of mini tea processing factories and special training on modern aspects of tea growing. The measures adopted by the Government are aimed at improving their farm productivity and quality of their produce and also providing them market access to ensure reasonable return on their investments.