

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:211  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010  
PROMOTION OF TEA RESEARCH  
Ghatowar Shri Paban Singh

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

- (a) whether India produces one of the best qualities of tea in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the quality of tea in the country and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to develop, modernise and declare Tocklai Tea Research Centre as a National Institution of excellence and also proposes to set up more such centres in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 FOR ANSWER ON 9TH AUGUST 2010 REGARDING "PROMOTION OF TEA RESEARCH"

a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Darjeeling tea produced in the Darjeeling hills is well known for its flavour and aroma. Teas produced in Assam and Nilgiris have also gained global renown for their intrinsic qualities.

(c): With a view to improving the quality of teas produced in the country, the Government of India through Tea Board is implementing schemes which provide for extending financial assistance to tea processing factories by way of subsidy ranging from 25% to 40% towards upgrading the old tea machinery, installing equipments for value addition, blending, packaging and securing quality assurance certificates. The schemes also include financial and technical assistance for various plantation developmental activities like uprooting, replantation of senile plantations, creation of irrigation and drainage facilities, training to small growers, leaf collection centres, purchase of transport vehicles etc.

(d) and (e) : Government has approved a special centenary grant of Rs. 20 crores to the Tea Research Association for modernization and upgradation of infrastructural facilities of Tocklai Experimental Station. The upgradation of Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTR&DC) to make it as a Centre of Excellence has also been sanctioned.