

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3132
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009
ORGANIC FARMING IN TEA ESTATES
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many of the tea estates in the country are gradually shifting from inorganic farming to organic farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is improvement in tea production as a result of the shift from inorganic to organic farming;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage organic farming in tea estates?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A few tea estates have shifted to organic farming which fetches a better price over the conventional tea. The details are as follows:

Name of the State No. of Organic Estates

Assam 18

West Bengal 30

Uttaranchal 2

Total North India 50

Tamil Nadu 8

Kerala 5

Karnataka 1

Total South India 14

All India 64

(c) & (d): The production initially declines during the conversion phase and regains the original level after a few years.

(e): The Government, through Tea Board, helps exporters of organic tea for participation in the organic exhibitions so that they are able to find new buyers. The organic tea producers are given assistance of 50% of the cost per certificate for certification of the product. The Government has approved a project with a financial support from Common Fund for Commodities which aims at developing the technology, skills and systems of organic tea production.