

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2044
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
DAMAGE TO TEA CROPS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Tea Industry has suffered crop losses due to pest attack and excessive rains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact to the domestic industry;
- (c) the extent to which the producers have suffered crop losses, region-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase the output and make up for the losses in the near future?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Tea plantations suffered crop losses particularly in the State of Assam in the beginning of 2010 and from May, 2010, the situation worsened due to erratic weather conditions and severe attack by tea mosquito bugs. The region-wise crop losses during 2010 (January to September 2010) over the corresponding period of 2009 are as under:-

Region Crop losses from January
 to September 2010 when
 compared to corresponding
 period of 2009 (in Million
 kgs)

Assam Valley -11.60

Cachar -1.95

Total (Assam) -13.55

West Bengal +4.67

Total (North India) -9.36

Total (South India) +5.58

Total (Whole India) -3.78

(d) Tea being an agricultural crop is subject to adverse impact by the vagaries of weather conditions. Tea Research Association (TRA) has been advised to focus on plant protection measures which can work well during wet weather conditions. TRA has organized special seminars and field demonstrations on pest control and spraying techniques in different regions which were attended by large number of participants from member tea estates. Technical presentations and field demonstrations were given by Plant Protection Scientists in the in-house seminar organized by a leading tea company in upper Assam. Plant Protection Scientists have made special visits to the affected gardens and circulated special bulletins and pest control packages to the gardens from Plant Protection and Technology Transfer divisions. Emphasis has been given to educate the grass root level workers through group training on pest identification and spraying in local languages.