

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5363  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010  
TEA INDUSTRY IN ASSAM  
Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

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

- (a) whether tea industry is a major industry of Barak Valley of Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding percentage of the population provided employment by the said tea industry in Barak Valley;
- (d) whether there has been a significant development in tea growing region of upper Assam which is absent in the Barak Valley;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of initiatives being taken by the Government to boost the tea industry of Barak Valley of Assam?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. The Barak Valley of Assam comprises of three districts i.e. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. There are 111 large Tea Estates covering an aggregate tea area of 32312 hectares. In addition, there are 109 small tea growers (registered with Tea Board) having 398.44 hectares. The total production of tea in Barak Valley during the calendar years 2008 and 2009 is 55.15 million kgs and 54.87 million kgs respectively.

(c): As per the information available with Tea Board, 69824 persons are directly employed in tea gardens in the Barak Valley. The numbers of bonafide dependants of these workers are 79428. Thus, 1,49,252 people are living in the tea plantations which constitutes 4.98% of the total population of the Barak Valley as per 2001 population census.

(d) and (e): The Upper Assam has witnessed significant growth in tea production mainly due to cultivation of tea by small growers in large numbers over the last two decades. The recent survey carried out by the Government of Assam indicate that there were more than 66,000 small growers mostly concentrated in Upper Assam, whereas in Barak Valley there are very few small tea growers.

(f): Government through Tea Board is providing assistance for new planting activity under the Plantation Development Scheme for the benefit of the small tea growers of Barak Valley of Assam.