

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1067
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
DUMPING OF COLOURED TEA
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether there has been rampant flooding of inferior and artificially coloured teas in the country particularly in Kerala through alternate routes from outside the State posing great threat to the domestic industry;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the entry of these products in the country?

Answer

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

(a): The problem of colour added tea exists in South India especially in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. However, a few such incidents have occurred recently in Kerala also in dust grade tea through the secondary buyers, blenders and packeteers of tea who are based at Coimbatore and other border areas.

(b) and (c) : The Tea Board has been taking steps to control this problem through raids at the factory, blenders and packeteers level. In fact, on many occasions, Tea Board has seized huge quantities of coloured tea and destroyed it. Advertisements have been given in regional languages to create awareness among the public to identify colour added tea. Health authorities of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been approached and efforts have been made to identify the culprits and take action under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act. The Port Authorities in South India have also been approached to check imported tea for its quality assurance and further action based on PFA.