

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:656

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

TREATY BETWEEN TEA BOARD AND EUROPEAN TEA COMMITTEE

Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether a joint communiqué has been signed between the Tea Board of India and the European Tea Committee;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said communiqué involves evolving a joint working relationship to implement the Protected Geographical Indication registration for Darjeeling in letter and spirit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d): The 'Darjeeling' tea mark has been registered as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), by the European Commission. To implement the PGI registration for Darjeeling in letter and spirit and towards this end a Joint Communiqué was released which covers the following:

- (i) Both European Tea Committee (ETC) and Tea Board, India jointly support the PGI registration in respect of Darjeeling Tea with the European Union (EU);
- (ii) Both ETC and Tea Board jointly agreed that they would co-operate and work together in disseminating information about the PGI registration and its implication in local language in Germany and other tea consuming countries within the EU;
- (iii) Tea Board of India and ETC would jointly approach EU for any financial assistance to take necessary steps towards informing EU consumers and citizens about Darjeeling PGI and its implications;
- (iv) If there is any information with Tea Board of India about infringement or violation of the PGI registration in the EU, the same would be shared with the ETC for any remedial action;
- (v) Both ETC and Tea Board, India would evolve a joint working relationship to implement the PGI registration for Darjeeling in letter and spirit.