

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3800

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012

DECLINE IN TEA PRODUCTION

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

- (a) the details of the total tea produced, consumed and exported from the country, during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the tea production in the country has been adversely affected by the ageing bushes, agro climatic changes, massive deforestation and lack of fresh investments in the tea sector particularly in the tea growing regions of West Bengal and Assam;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government and Tea Board for improving the Productivity and encouraging the farmers for promoting tea cultivation in the region;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to the small tea growers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the total funds allocated and spent for the purpose, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): The details regarding production, import, exports and domestic retention of tea during the last three years and the current year are as under:

(Qty. in Million. Kgs)

Year	Production availability	Import Exports	Total	Domestic retention	
2009-10	991.18	25.84	1017.02	213.43	803.59
2010-11	966.73	19.26	985.99	213.79	772.20
2011-12	976.23	19.21	995.44	209.04	786.40
2012-13 (Apr-Sep)	690.31	11.28	701.59	81.85	619.74

(b) & (c): Ageing bushes, agro climatic changes, massive deforestation and lack of fresh investments in the tea sector are contributory factors for lower productivity. For addressing the old age of tea bushes, a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) was set up during XI Plan period for extending financial support to tea gardens for uprooting and replanting/rejuvenation of old tea bushes. From this fund a total sum of Rs.134.12 Cr as subsidy and Rs.48 Cr as long term loan was disbursed over the last five years. The total area renovated during the five year period adds up to 32,012 ha. In addition subsidy was made available for creation of irrigation facilities (27427.29 ha), modernization for processing facilities (1485 units), value addition (142 units), quality assurance certification (224units), new planting in small holdings (3737.96 ha), setting up of self Help Groups (250) among small growers, market promotion and Research & Development support. Total funds disbursed during the XI Plan period for these activities add up to Rs. 745 Crores. The rise in frequency of droughts, floods and outbreak of pests and diseases has a contribution to area specific decline in tea production. Tea Research Institutes have been raonitoring the situation and issue advisory notes to the tea plantations to address the challenges of climate change which include proper drainage in flood prone areas, moisture conservation measures to combat droughts as well as irrigation practices in drought prone areas, besides, practices to control pests and diseases. Area specific scientific seminars are being organized to brief the tea planters about the measures to be undertaken to combat extreme events caused by climate

abrasiveness. Further, Small Tea Growers (STGs) are regularly made aware of the impact of both biotic and abiotic stresses on tea production and measures to mitigate such stresses during various training programmes organized for them.

(d): Yes, Madam.

(e): The Tea Board is providing special attention towards the development of small tea growers. Efforts are being made towards collectivization of the small growers by way of Self Help Group/Producers` Societies for enabling the small tea growers to move up in the value chain. Liberal financial assistance is being provided for such SHGs towards setting up of leaf collection centers, purchase of transport vehicles purchase of field inputs and construction of input storage godowns, setting up of tea processing factories etc. The details of expenditure incurred during the XI Plan period and the current financial year (up to November 2012) on these activities are as under:-

SI State XI Plan period Current financial year 2012-13
No 2007-12 Rs. Cr (Upto November 2012)Rs.Cr

1	Assam	15.00	2.24
2	Nagaland	1.78	0.00
3	Tripura	1.07	0.19
4	Meghalaya	0.59	0.01
5	Arunachal Pradesh	0.55	0.03
6	Manipur	0.14	0.03
7	Mizoram	0.41	0.01#
8	West Bengal	4.90	0.59
9	Uttarakhand	0.51	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.53	0.01
11	Tamil Nadu	7.93	1.63
12	Kerala	4.03	0.67
	Total	37.44	5.41