

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3307
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
TEA INDUSTRY
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the production of tea in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any research to ascertain the reasons for the decline in the production as well as for improving the quality of tea produced in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor including the specific steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the production and improve the quality of tea; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to develop/modernize the closed tea research centres and declare them as centre for excellence and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Tea being an agricultural crop, production would tend to fluctuate from year to year depending on the climatic conditions. However, it would be evident from the five year moving averages shown below that there was a steady increase in production over the years in India:

Year	5 Years Moving average of Production in M kgs
1996-97 to 2000-01	832.52
2001-02 to 2005-06	886.36
2006-07 to 2010-11	958.15

(b): The Tea Board of India funds Tea Research Associations. These are Tea Research Association for North East India, United Planters Association of South India and Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre. These Institutes conduct research on improving the production and productivity of tea.

(c): With the financial support from Tea Board, Research is being carried for development of high yielding clones and biclonal seed stock and implementation of good agricultural practices for improving productivity and improving the quality of tea .

(d): There is no research institute which has been closed. So development and modernization of the closed tea research institutes does not arise.