

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:565

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

TEA FACTORIES

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved new norms for setting up micro and mini tea factories by small tea growers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the current plan focuses on collectivization of small tea growers to make them move up in value chains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) & (b): Tea Board at its meeting held on 5th October 2013 approved the new norms for setting up micro and mini tea factories by small tea growers in the country; As per the new norms small factories set up by individual growers producing tea in the range of 22.5 kg to 225 kg made tea per day are considered as micro mini factories and those set up by SHGs producing tea upto 450 to 500 kg made tea per day are considered as mini factories.

(c) & (d): Growers holding tea area up to 10.12 ha (ie.25 acres) are considered as small tea growers. Currently there are around 2 lakh holdings and they account for around 35% of all India production. Given the potential for producing high value teas at low cost, the focus during the current Plan period is to encourage the small growers to move up in the value chain instead of remaining for ever as only green leaf producers.

The Tea Board is in the process of establishing a net work of sub regional offices with the posting of Development officers and Factory Advisory Officers in all the regions of the country, in order to extend technical and financial support to small growers and SHGs