

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:604

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015

TEA EXPORTS

Simha Shri Prathap

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

- (a) the total quantity of tea produced, consumed, exported and the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years including its position in the world tea market;
- (b) the criteria/parameters fixed laid down to maintain minimum quality level of Indian tea for its export in international market;
- (c) whether a large number of tea manufacturers in the country are facing difficulties in selling tea in international markets on account of various certificates required for an export consignment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the list of such certificates required including the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to facilitate export of quality tea in the world market?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 604 FOR ANSWER ON 8TH MAY 2015 REGARDING "TEA EXPORTS"

(a): The total quantity of tea produced, consumed, exported and the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years including its position in the world tea market is given in the following Tables:

Year	Production (M.Kgs)	World ranking (M.Kgs)	Apparent Consumption
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2011-12	1095.46	2nd	873
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2012-13	1135.07	2nd	890
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2013-14	1208.78	2nd	911
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2014-15 (P)	1174.00	2nd	932
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(P) Provisional, subject to revision

Year	Exports (M.Kgs)	Foreign exchange earned in Mill US\$	World ranking
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2011-12	214.35	690.14	4th
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2012-13	216.23	735.90	4th
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2013-14	225.76	746.46	4th
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2014-15 (P)	197.81	619.96	4th
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(P) Provisional, subject to revision.

(b): Tea Board follows the parameters stipulated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to maintain quality level in Indian tea. Tea Board of India along with Tea Research Institutes and Tea Industry Associations strongly endorse international tea quality standards (ISO 3720) to strictly comply with the guidelines of both National and International regularity bodies. International standards for tea are guided by International regulatory bodies like Codex, and individual country standards in EU, Japan, USA etc.

(c)&(d): No, Madam. At present, Tea Board issues the below mentioned certificates for an export consignment.

(i) Clearance Certificate.

(ii) Certificate of Origin (in case of Darjeeling Tea Exports only at present).

(iii) Health Certificate (in case of exports to Iran only).

From June, 2013, the clearance certificate is generated online immediately. The Certificate of Origin is also issued by Tea Board on the same day/the next day of submission of application. Tea Board is also issuing health certificates for each consignment exported to Iran.

(e): The Central Government had promulgated the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 to ensure the quality of tea as per the prescribed national and international standards. Tea Board had also established two Tea Councils in North and South India to prevent export of tea not conforming to FSSAI standards. The Government tries to take up the causes of its exporters in international forums and bi-lateral Joint Commission Meetings whenever measures like sanitary regulations and prohibitions become Non-tariff barriers (NTB's) to tea exports.