

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:921
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
PESTICIDE SEDIMENTS IN TEA
Chautala Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether a large number of samples of tea tested positive for a cocktail of toxic pesticides and DDT was reportedly present in almost 67 per cent of the tea samples;
- (b) if so, whether the tea board had conducted any study to find out pesticide sediments in the tea sold in the market with branded names;
- (c) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to ensure that Indian tea continues to be of high standards?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Analysis of samples of tea carried out by the Tea Board through the accredited laboratories of Tea Research Institutes indicates that the presence of pesticide residues in most of the samples are within the limits of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The tests conducted include samples of both branded and general tea.

(d): Tea Board works with tea research institutes and other stakeholders to ensure that Indian tea continues to be of high standard with respect to food safety and quality. A comprehensive guideline on plant protection and agricultural practices including the usage of pesticides in form of Plant Protection Code is being implemented. The FSSAI also regularly reviews and updates MRLs for pesticides that are allowed to be present in tea. 'Trustea', an industry-led initiative, has been launched to enforce quality in manufactured tea. 'Trustea' certificate is granted to manufacturing units that do not use plant formulations banned by the Central and state governments or its affiliated bodies.