

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2088

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014

R D ON TEA QUALITY .

Mukherjee Shri Abhijit

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

(a) whether the Tea Board and Tea Research Associations have undertaken any activities to improve the quality and yield of existing varieties of tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the activities undertaken in this regard during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to encourage and assist the industry to undertake R&D in tea sector to improve productivity and quality and also assess the need of mechanisation in the sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon? ANSWER

Answer

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

(a): The Tea Board supports research activities carried out by the Tea Research Association (TRA), Tocklai, Assam, United Planters' Association of Southern India – Tea Research Foundation (UPASI-TRF) and Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre (DTR&DC) with a view to promote quality and yield of tea. The research activities include, inter alia, conventional breeding programme and bio-technological intervention aimed at developing superior tea cultivars having ability to resist both biotic and abiotic stresses and deliver high yield and quality. Both TRA and UPASI-TRF have recently released high yielding clones called TTRI-1, TTRI-2, TRF-4 and TRF-5.

(b): The activities undertaken during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year Name of Agency/ Project

Research

Institute

2011-12 TRA, Tocklai Molecular basis of stress linked biochemical changes in tea shoots and relationship to tea quality.

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2012-13 DTR&DC, Kurseong Integrated tea improvement programme.

2013-14 DTR&DC, Kurseong Integrated Tea Improvement Programme.

TRA, Tocklai Tissue culture, grafting and development of tea germplasm bank.

UPASI-TRF Planting of new graft combinations with a view to evaluate graft compatibility.

2014-15 DTR&DC, Kurseong Raising nursery with cuttings of TRA released germplasm and development of gene bank.

TRA, Tocklai Propagation of quality clones e.g. Koomsung-23, Koomsung-29 and R-94 for establishment of nucleus plot of the clones.

UPASI-TRF Development of hybrids with different combinations.

(c) & (d): XIth Five Year Plan Scheme of Tea Board for development and promotion of tea includes research components under programmes of 'tea improvement' and 'tea mechanization'. The main objective of the programmes is to meet the need of the industry for improved planting material having higher productivity and quality, and mechanization of farm operations.