

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2154
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
STUDY BY GREENPEACE ON TEA QUALITY
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

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

- (a) whether a global NGO Greenpeace has made any study on the quality of Indian tea and found it unsafe;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Government is aware that Greenpeace, a non-governmental organization, collected a few samples of Indian tea products and reportedly tested them as per their own chosen procedures for the presence of pesticides in tea. The Tea Board of India having reviewed the findings of the Greenpeace study has concluded that all the samples tested comply with the Indian standards and regulations.

(c): The Government has taken several steps to reduce reliance on synthetic Plant Protection Formulations (PPF) and to ensure that Indian tea continues to meet the high standards expected by the consumers. A Plant Protection Code has been introduced by the Tea Board which lays down, inter alia, guidelines for PPF use during the tea cultivation and harvest cycle and end product testing. Tea Board has partnered with the industry to implement pilot projects for using non synthetic plant protection formulations for tea cultivation. '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. Further, the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India undertakes regular review of the MRLs for permitted chemicals with a view to harmonize Indian production standards with international standards.