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Title : Regarding import of substandard and cheaper variety of tea by some unscrupulous tea traders and merchants.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Madam Chairman, I stand here to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce to the fact that a section of unscrupulous merchants and traders are importing sub-standard and cheaper varieties of tea and selling it in the global market after blending it with low quality of Indian tea. This not only goes against the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, but it is also harming the tea industry as a whole since Indian tea has a wide market abroad for export.

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly enlighten this august House whether the Government is aware of the mal-practices by certain tea merchants who are harming the reputation of Indian tea in the world market. I would also request the hon. Minister to please clarify what action is being taken by the Government against these unscrupulous merchants and traders.