GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2599
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th MARCH, 2022

FUNDING OF TOCKLAI TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2599. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

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

(a) the fund allocation after 2012 by Government to the Tocklai Tea Research Institute (TTRI) to boost the production and standardization of facilities;
(b) the products made/invented so far by TTRI in the field of health, hygiene, environment and local agriculture; and
(c) the blueprints prepared by Government to support the ongoing research in TTRI?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): Tocklai Tea Research Institute (TTRI) is a research institute under the Tea Research Association (TRA). The Tea Board supports research activities carried out by the Tea Research Association (TRA), Tocklai with a view to promote production and quality of tea. Financial assistance of Rs.106.75 crore has been provided to TRA since 2012-13 till 21 March 2022.

The research activities undertaken by TTRI are aimed at developing superior tea cultivars, plant protection through controlling pest & diseases, addressing pesticide residue problem, natural resource management and enhancement of quality. The products made/invented by TTRI are as under:

(i) In the field of health and hygiene, antiviral activity of the aflavins (a major black tea polyphenol) against Hepatitis-C virus was demonstrated in human hepatoma cells in 2017 and *in silico* studies on antiviral activity of Tea Bio actives against SARS-Cov-2 was demonstrated in 2021. Tea bioactive based soft drinks and enriched drinking water formulations were developed in 2019. TTRI also developed iron filing extractor machine for removing iron filings from made tea in tea factories. To improve the quality of tea leaves, TR Agnext Fine Leaf count machine has been developed for counting of fine leaf with use of Artificial Intelligence technologies.

(ii) In the field of environment & local agriculture, TTRI developed agro technology for organic tea production. Large scale production of biopesticides has also been developed at Tocklai. TTRI also demonstrated drip irrigation & fertigation through drip with saving of 25% water and fertilizers in addition to saving application cost. Production technologies have been developed for diversified products like Black/Green Instant Tea, Black/Gree Tea Concentrate, Tea Premixes etc. Low cost tea dryer has been developed for small tea growers. In addition, TTRI has released various machines like Rotorvane, Borbora continuous leaf conditioner, Tea breaker cum stalk separator etc. for use by the Tea industry.

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