

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *201
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024

SCHEME FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS

*201. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any scheme to improve the condition of small tea growers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the schemes implemented by Government, State-wise;
- (c) the number of small tea growers and their contribution to the national productivity, State-wise;
- (d) the various incentives already provided and contemplated to be provided;
- (e) whether Government has evaluated the specific problem being faced by the small tea growers of Assam; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) to (f) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 FOR ANSWER ON 09TH AUGUST, 2024 REGARDING “SCHEME FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS”.

(a) & (b) The Tea Development & Promotion Scheme, implemented by Tea Board for the overall development of Tea Sector in the country, has components specifically for Small Tea Growers (STGs). Focus is on organising STGs into self-help groups (SHGs) and farmer producer organisations (FPOs) with the objective of empowering STGs to participate more gainfully in the tea value chain and to make the delivery of extension services and schemes of Tea Board to STGs more effective. Assistance for field mechanisation equipment, leaf carriage vehicles, leaf sheds, pruning machines, mechanical harvesters & storage godowns, setting up of new mini factories for production of orthodox, green & specialty teas, soil testing and capacity building through Farm Field schools etc. is provided to the STGs through the FPOs and SHGs. The assistance is not only aimed to incentivise the formation of SHGs and FPOs, but also to increase productivity, improve quality, greater value addition and thereby greater price realisation for the STGs.

(c) Tea is grown in 15 states of the country. Estimates of small tea growers for 14 states are available with the Tea Board. The figures for these as on 31.03.2024 are as given in the table below:

S.No.	State	No of Growers identified*
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3526
2.	Assam	133626
3.	Bihar	2930
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1526
5.	Manipur	473
6.	Meghalaya	734
7.	Mizoram	450
8.	Nagaland	2924
9.	Sikkim	35
10.	Tripura	2875
11.	Uttarakhand	1493
12.	West Bengal	39640
13.	Kerala	8077
14.	Tamil Nadu	49578
	Total All India	247887

Source: Tea Board

During the financial year 2023-24, against total tea production of 1382.03 M. Kgs in the country, the small growers produced 738.34 M. Kgs i.e. 53.42% of total production. The productivity of tea produced by the small tea growers during the financial year 2023-24 was 3464 Kg/Ha as compared to All India productivity of 2178 Kg/Ha.

(d) Financial assistance of Rs.62.49 crores has been provided to the small tea growers during last three years (2021-22 to 2023-24) through various activities including assistance to SHGs/FPOs, support for mini tea factories, mechanization etc. under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme implemented by the Tea Board and the sector specific Action Plan for Niti Forum for North East. Further, under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme for the period 2024-25 to 2025-26, Rs 108.27 crore has been allocated for the small tea growers, which will help significantly scale up the number of small tea growers who can benefit from the scheme.

(e) & (f) The suggestions provided by Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Association (CISTA) on issues of small tea growers, including those of Assam, and recommendations in the evaluation report on the scheme of Tea Board conducted by DMEO, NITI Aayog, which contained feedback on the issues pertaining to small tea growers, were also taken into consideration while finalizing the current scheme.
