

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2137**  
ANSWERED ON 13/12/2024

**SMALL TEA GROWERS AND TEA PRODUCTION**

2137. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tea production in the country shows a decline of 13.4 per cent in 2024 compared to the previous year, if so, the details thereof, including data specific to Assam;
- (b) definition of small tea growers, their total number across the country, and their contribution to the country's total tea production, including data specific to Assam; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that small tea growers are not considered at par with farmers for availing benefits under schemes in the agriculture sector, if so, the steps taken by Government in response to recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Commerce?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Tea Production in the country in 2023-24 was 1382.03 M. Kgs as compared to 1374.97 M. Kgs in 2022-23 and 1344.40 M. Kgs in 2021-22, registering a consistent growth in this period. In 2024, till October the tea production in the country has been 1112.11 M. Kgs as compared to 1178.50 M. Kgs of production in the same period previous year. Assam tea Production in 2024 (till October) has been 577.07 M. Kgs as compared to 598.27 M. Kgs of production in the same period previous year.

(b) Small tea grower means a person owning tea area upto 10.12 ha (25 acres). As per Tea Board, the total number of small tea growers in the country as on 31.03.2024 were 2,47,887 contributing 53.42% to country's total tea production. Out of the above, number of small tea growers in Assam was 1,33,626 contributing 47.25% to Assam's total tea production.

(c) In line with the recommendation of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DRPSC) on Commerce, the Department of Commerce has taken up the extension of agricultural schemes with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare.

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