

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2283
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025

IMPORT OF TEA

2283. SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK

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

- (a) the country-wise and year-wise details of total amount of tea (in kg) imported since 2020;
- (b) whether India imports duty-free tea from any country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of import duty imposed by the countries on tea that is imported from India;
- (d) whether it is a fact that import of tea is permitted only for the purpose of re-export; and
- (e) whether Government has any data on imported tea being mixed with domestic produce?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) The country-wise and year-wise details of tea imported since 2020 is attached as Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Teas imported in India attract basic import duty of 100%. Import duty is not incurred on teas imported by Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units for the purpose of re-exports. The import duties applied by the tea importing countries may vary from country to country and also depend *inter alia* on the presence of trade agreements or preferential rates.

(e) Data on imported tea being mixed with domestic produce is not captured. However, Tea Board has taken several measures in respect of teas imported into the country, which include as below:

- A Notification dated 11.11.2021 was issued with a directive stating that imported tea must not be blended with GI teas, and if blending is done, the end product must not be claimed as GI tea.
- Directives were issued to packers, requiring them to clearly indicate on the packaging that the blended tea contains imported ingredients.
- Importers and exporters have been directed to mandatorily obtain clearance certificates from the Board's Tea Council portal before importing or exporting tea,

and the origin of the tea must be clearly mentioned on the tea packages.

- The importers should notify, to the Board, the place of storage of the imported teas within 24 hours of import. The importers shall ensure that origin of the imported teas is mentioned in all sale invoices.
- The tea consignments are tested for compliance to parameters laid down by FSSAI at the time of import in India. Tea Board also collects random samples from the tea imported and tests them for compliance with the FSSAI parameters.
- Process of conducting joint training sessions among between Tea Board, Customs and FSSAI were initiated to strengthen food import clearance procedures.

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2283 for answer on 19.12.2025.

Countries	Quantity of tea imported into India (million Kg)					
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Apr-Oct)
Argentina	1.25	1.07	0.66	0.90	1.14	1.15
Australia	0.08	0.14	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00
Bangladesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
Belgium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Brazil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Burundi	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Chile	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
China	0.63	0.64	0.69	0.51	1.11	0.61
Cyprus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Czech Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Djibouti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Ecuador	0.19	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Egypt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Ethiopia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.12
Finland	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
France	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Georgia	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Germany	0.05	0.01	0.18	0.10	0.11	0.02
Indonesia	1.36	1.03	1.09	0.13	0.20	0.17
Iran	2.11	3.12	0.19	1.47	2.80	0.98
Italy	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
Japan	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05
Kenya	12.57	7.80	5.13	5.78	19.03	7.87
Korea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Libya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Malawi	0.23	0.28	0.33	0.19	0.26	0.20
Malaysia	0.03	0.04	0.12	0.08	0.20	0.03
Mexico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Morocco	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Mozambique	0.75	0.14	0.03	0.05	0.09	0.00
Myanmar	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nepal	12.57	10.72	16.53	12.94	16.11	6.21
Netherland	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.16
Oman	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
Philippines	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.03
Qatar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Russia	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rwanda	0.10	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Saudi Arab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Singapore	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sri Lanka	0.61	0.37	0.31	0.28	0.30	0.15
Sudan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Switzerland	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02
Taiwan	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.01
Tanzania	0.28	0.13	0.27	0.15	0.44	0.09
Thailand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.02
UAE	0.06	0.09	0.05	0.09	2.70	0.53
UK	0.49	0.33	0.42	0.18	1.30	1.57
USA	0.28	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.13	0.05
Uganda	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
Unspecified	0.02	0.25	0.03	0.07	0.17	0.00
Vietnam	4.45	3.28	3.14	1.86	3.38	2.33
Zimbabwe	0.29	0.39	0.41	0.07	0.05	0.05

Source: Tea Board
