

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4045
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th JULY, 2019

WELFARE OF TEA GROWERS

4045. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has any scheme to increase the production and income of the tea growers in West Bengal, especially Jalpaiguri and if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government is planning to connect these farmers with the banking sector for ease of loans and if so, the details thereof;
- the quantum and value of export of tea during the last year, State/UT-wise; and
- whether the Government proposed to set up any research institute related to innovation in tea in North Bengal, especially in Jalpaiguri and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): The Government through the Tea Board is implementing Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TPDS) which provides financial assistance to the tea industry in the country including the tea gardens of West Bengal covering Jalpaiguri District for increasing production and productivity of tea, and welfare measures for tea garden workers and their wards. Tea Board has disbursed Rs.218.28 Crores in last three financial years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 of which the share of West Bengal was Rs.44.50 crores.

(b): As per TPDS, there is no provision of extending loans to tea industry or tea growers.

(c): The tea is mostly blended before it is exported, as such the origin (State/UT-wise) is lost in the process. Hence the data pertaining to the export share of the States and UTs are not maintained by the Tea Board. However, region wise exports (based on the ports in the region) of tea during 2018-19 is given in the following table:

Region	Quantity in M.Kgs	Value in Rs Crs	Unit Price in Rs/Kg
North India	152.83	3748.40	245.27
South India	101.67	1758.44	172.96

All India	254.50	5506.84	216.38
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Source: Tea Board

(d): At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.
