

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3378

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST MARCH, 2023

CONCERNS OF TEA GROWERS

† 3378. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether small tea growers in North East including Assam are facing increasing cost of production, low profit and labour problems, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any plan for proper arrangement of water drainage, irrigation with sprinkler method when rain is less and prevention of red insects, algae, pink diseases etc. for the benefit of small tea growers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering of branding, marketing, packaging of tea produced by these small tea growers through Farmers Producer Organizations; and
- (d) if so, the total number of Farmer Producer Organizations working for tea growers till now?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The tea Industry is sensitive to fluctuation in the cost of various inputs like raw materials, wages and the demand-supply scenario etc. In order to ensure remunerative prices of green leaf to tea growers, a Price Sharing Formula (PSF) has been notified as per the provisions of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order in the case of Bought Leaf Factories. This formula takes into account the cost of production of green tea leaf by the small growers and cost of manufacturing by the Bought leaf factories and provides for equitable sharing of the net sale price of the made tea between the growers and the manufacturers. Minimum benchmark prices for green leaf are fixed and notified for each tea district based on the above formula and payment of green leaf price to the growers is closely monitored by the District Green Leaf Price Monitoring Committees headed by the District Magistrates.

Further under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme (TDPS) being implemented by the Tea Board financial as well as technical assistance is provided for mechanization, organization of primary producer societies/self-help groups, workshop & training.

(b): Under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme, technical assistance is provided by the Tea Board through workshops and training to the small tea growers on field management practices/ good agricultural practices including on drainage, irrigation etc. Workshops on mitigating the effects of climate change are also being organized for the creating awareness amongst the small growers.

Further, the Tea Board has notified a Plant Protection Code for safe usage of plant protection formulations for adherence to food safety standards. The code includes all Plant Protection Formulations covering insecticides, acaricides, fungicides, herbicides for use in tea for effective control of insect pests and diseases. Small tea growers are imparted training of adoption of the Code.

(c) & (d): The Tea Board facilitates formation of Farmer Producer Organisations of small tea growers and also provides financial as well as technical assistance to FPOs/SHGs. The total number of Farmer Producer Organisations of small tea growers formed in the North East till now is 179.
