

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd MARCH, 2023

EXPORT OF ORGANIC TEA

3480. SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has failed to boost export of organic tea from the country though there is huge potential in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total quantity of organic tea exported during each of the last three years and the current year and the foreign exchange earned;
- (d) whether export of organic tea has been affected after COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the corrective steps taken to promote export of organic tea;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps for expanding the cultivable area of organic tea and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Tea Board has taken any action for promotion of organic tea farming in Assam by facilitating certification; and
- (g) if so, the number of licenses issued to the tea farmers/tea gardens of Assam and the funds allocated for promotion of organic tea farming during the last three years, State-wise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. The export of organic tea in value terms has increased from 49.71 Million USD in 2019-20 to 54.54 Million USD in 2021-22. In order to promote export of organic tea, the Tea

Board undertakes promotional initiatives such as participation in international trade fairs dedicated to organic products and organising buyer-seller meets.

The details of organic tea exported during the last three years, which include the period of COVID-19 pandemic, and the current year is given in the following table:

Year	Quantity (in Thousand Kgs.)	Value (in Million USD)
2019-20	6210.89	49.71
2020-21	6164.24	50.75
2021-22	6060.46	54.54
2022-23 (Apr-Dec)*	4206.98	38.05

Source: Tea Board/APEDA

(e) to (g): The Government has accorded due priority to the promotion and development of organic tea farming in the country including Assam. The Government of India, through the Tea Board, inter alia, provides financial assistance for conversion from conventional to organic cultivation, organic farm inputs, and for organic certification to plantation & manufacturing units under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme.

The financial assistance extended for promotion of organic tea farming during the last three years and current financial year 2022-23 (till February 2023), State-wise is given below:

State	Financial Assistance (Rs. Lakhs)
Assam	95.01
Tripura	2.33
Nagaland	38.8
Arunachal Pradesh	0.20
Meghalaya	0.25
Sikkim	21.03
Himachal Pradesh	0.43
Tamil Nadu	0.12
Kerala	0.55
Total	158.72

Source: Tea Board

Separate licenses for organic tea farming are not required. The number of licences issued by Tea Board to farmers/tea gardens of Assam for cultivation of tea during the last three years and the current year is given in the following Table:

Year	No. of Licenses Issued
2019-20	402
2020-21	310
2021-22	613
2022-2023 (Upto17.03.2023)	396

Source: Tea Board

During the same period, 30 beneficiaries, who were assisted by the Tea Board, were given organic certification for tea farming.
