

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1808
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st SEPTEMBER, 2020

ORGANIC TEA

1808. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:
SHRI SELVAM G.:

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

- the reasons for not developing the production of organic tea in the country which has tremendous demand abroad;
- the total quantity of organic tea exported during each of the last three years and the current year and the foreign exchange earned;
- whether the export of organic tea has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- whether the Government has taken any steps for expanding the cultivable area of organic tea and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- the other steps taken by the Government to promote the export of organic tea; and
- the number of licences issued to tea farmers/tea gardens of Assam along with the funds allocated for the promotion of organic farming in the country during each of the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): India is one of the largest producers of organic tea with an annual production of around 10 million Kgs. Organic tea cultivation has gained momentum and is grown in all major tea producing states of the country. Organic tea production in the country has increased in recent years, as indicated below:

Year	Quantity (M.T)
2017-18	8117.39

2018-19	10831.65
2019-20	11192.81

(Source: Tea Board/APEDA)

(b): The details of Organic tea exported during each of the last three years and the current year and the foreign exchange earned, is given in the following Table:

Year	Exported quantity (in MT)	Value (in USD Million)
2017-18	5221.72	35.52
2018-19	5897.30	48.76
2019-20	6210.89	49.71
2020-21 (Apr-Aug)	2056.99	16.90

(Source: Tea Board/APEDA)

(c): The export of organic tea has declined marginally by 99.78 M.T (4.63%) during the period April-August 2020-21 over the corresponding period of the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to mitigate the problems faced by tea exporters due to the pandemic, the Tea Board has taken various steps like online issuance of licenses and health certificates, extension of date of filing of various mandatory returns, consultations with stakeholders, buyer-seller meets through video conferencing (VC), establishment of alternative auction platform at Jorhat, Assam, and implementation of a credit card for buyers to improve cash flow on the auction platform etc. It is estimated that with the improvement in the COVID situation worldwide, the demand for tea and export of organic tea will improve significantly.

(d): The Government has accorded due priority to the promotion and development of organic tea farming in the country. The Government of India, through the Tea Board, inter alia, provides financial assistance for conversion to organic by small tea growers and for organic certification to plantation and manufacturing units under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme. The State-wise details of organic tea cultivation are given below:

State	Number of Organic Tea Gardens and Small Holdings	Area of Holdings (ha)
Assam	45	3439.87
Mizoram	3	74.00
Nagaland	3	67.90
Tripura	15	93.56
Meghalaya	3	62.47
West Bengal (Darjeeling)	60	11652.34
Sikkim	1	177.46
Tamil Nadu	13	1365.96
Kerala	5	656.00
Himachal Pradesh	4	161.06
All India Total	152	17750.62

Source: Tea Board.

(e): 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. Generic promotion is also undertaken in key markets.

(f): The number of licences issued by Tea Board, to farmers/tea gardens of Assam during the last three years and the current year, is given in the following Table:

Year	No of Licenses Issued
2017-18	251
2018-19	393
2019-2020	402
2020-2021(Upto 15 September)	135
Total	1181

Source: Tea Board

From 2017-18 to 2019-20 & in the current Financial Year 2020-21, the Tea Board has provided financial assistance, as detailed below, for development and promotion of tea, including organic tea farming, in the country:

Year	Total disbursement (Rs. Crore)
2017-18	120.44
2018-19	91.57
2019-20	105.52
2020-21 (April to August)	23.27
Total	340.80
