

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01st DECEMBER, 2021

IMPORT OF TEA

575. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

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

- (a) whether there have been cases where substandard tea are being imported and distributed in India;
- (b) if so, the details of various such cases reported during each of the last three years;
- (c) the details of tea import of the country during each of the last three years along with the names of the countries from where such tea is coming;
- (d) the details of the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in such export;
- (e) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines, directions to check such illegal import and protect Indian tea manufacturers; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

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) & (b) : Six cases were detected by the Tea Board where the imported teas were found to be non-compliant with the FSSAI-specified parameters. The Tea Board seized and destroyed the teas. The details of such cases during each of the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of Cases	Quantity of imported tea (Kg.) seized	Name of country from which teas were imported
2018	3	1,970	Nepal
2019	3	3,600	Nepal
2020	Nil	Nil	--
Total	6	5,570	

(c) : The details of country-wise import of tea during the last three years are given at Annexure.

(d) to (f) : The Tea Board has issued instructions on 11.11.2021 directing all importers and buyers of tea to ensure that origin of imported tea to be mentioned in all their sale invoices and not to pass off imported tea as teas of Indian origin. All distributors and blenders of tea have been directed that the label should clearly indicate on the packaging that the contents of the blended Tea are imported, giving the source of origin of Imported tea irrespective of whether the imported tea has been bought directly or through an intermediary. All importers importing teas into India for distribution in India shall inform about the place of storage of such imported tea to the nearest Tea Board Office within 24 hours of entry of such teas into India. The tea buyers have been directed not to blend imported tea with teas of Darjeeling/Kangra/Assam (Orthodox)/Nilgiri (Orthodox).

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and field formations of Customs are enforcing the provisions related to rule of origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary certificates issued by appropriate authorities at point of entry.

Annexure

COUNTRY WISE IMPORT OF TEA DURING LAST 3 YEARS

(in Million Kgs.)

Country	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
ARGENTINA	0.93	1.57	0.77
CHINA	0.37	0.31	0.53
GERMANY	0.03	0.03	0.09
INDONESIA	0.07	0.60	1.30
IRAN	0.76	0.02	0.06
JAPAN	0.01	-	-
KENYA	1.74	3.06	9.50
MALAWI	0.36	0.47	0.24
MALAYSIA	0.05	0.04	0.00
MOZAMBIQUE	0.00	0.04	0.55
MYANMAR	0.00	0.02	0.02
NEPAL	16.05	7.29	10.74
RWANDA	-	-	0.08
SINGAPORE	1.38	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	-	-	0.04
SRI LANKA	0.16	0.45	0.39
TAIWAN	0.02	0.02	-
TANZANIA	0.32	0.32	0.33
TURKEY	-	0.12	0.02
U.A.E	0.00	0.03	0.07
U.S.A	0.43	0.02	0.19
UGANDA	-	-	0.05
UNITED KINGDOM	0.71	0.22	0.33
VIETNAM	0.25	0.86	2.22
ZIMBABWE	0.58	0.05	0.18
AUSTRALIA	-	-	0.05
TOTAL	24.22	15.54	27.75