

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1830
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th JULY, 2022

REJECTION OF TEA CONSIGNMENTS

1830. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that both international and domestic buyers have rejected a series of Tea consignments due to the presence of pesticides and chemicals beyond permissible limits;
- (b) if so the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to control such type of rejections?

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): Indian Tea Exporters' Association has confirmed to the Tea Board that return of any tea consignment by the international buyers has not been reported. The domestic tea buyers of auction system carry out quality checking independently in respect of the teas purchased by them from auction. Few instances have been reported where the buyers had claimed that the teas purchased by them do not adhere to FSSAI parameters. The sellers, however, did not agree to buyers' report and re-tested the teas in NABL accredited laboratories where the teas conformed to all FSSAI parameters. The Tea Board has sent those teas for re-testing. After retesting if the teas are found not conforming to FSSAI parameters, the same will be destroyed as per Clause 4(d) of the Tea Waste Control Order 1959.

(c): It has been a continuous endeavour of the Tea Board and tea industry to strategize ways and means to ensure quality of tea being exported from India. The following measures are being undertaken by the Tea Board on sustained basis:

- i. Enforcement of "Plant Protection Code (PPC)" in the plantations for "Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)" and the "Factory Safety Management System (FSMS)" at the factory level for "Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)".
- ii. Mandatory testing of sampled teas (twice in a year) for checking conformance with the FSSAI parameters at the factory level.
- iii. Regular awareness camps/workshops for small tea growers at the grass root level for imparting training on GAP.
- iv. Mandatory closure of all the factories in early December every year also helps in arresting infusion of sub-standard teas into the system.
