

(b) Fiscal incentives as envisaged under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005, are available to all the States and Union Territories, including West Bengal.

Effect of rupee appreciation on tea exports

2030. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

whether tea exports had been further hit by the rupee appreciation;

if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

the revenue generated from such exports; and

the steps being taken to boost tea exports from the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the current year export of tea declined mainly due to appreciation of Rupee vis-a-vis dollar and poor exports to countries like Iraq (due to payment problem), Pakistan, Kenya and United Kingdom etc. The details of exports of tea from India during the last three years and the revenue generated from exports are furnished below—

Year	Financial Year-wise	
	Qty. (M. Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
2004-05	205.81	1924.71
2005-06	96.67	1793.58
2006-07	218.15	2045.72
2007-08 (Apr-December)*	112.34	1111.54
2006-07 (Apr-December)	173.78	1629.18
(+) or (-) over last year	(-) 61.44	(-) 517.64

Estimated and subject to revision

(d) The Tea Board/Govt. are taking various measures to boost the export of tea which include conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets and lending promotional support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts. These activities include: participation in international and/or specialized fairs and exhibitions, field sampling at speciality stores and/or principal markets; media publicity- buyer-seller meets; public relation activities to establish closer link between importers and exporters; and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries. Tea Board's overseas offices at London, Moscow and Dubai are making efforts to promote Indian tea in these potential markets.'

Tax rebates to exporters

† 2031. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal of providing the advantage of both State and Centre tax rebates to exporters;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.