

Tea production expansion scheme

†1025. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce tea production expansion scheme throughout the country in order to increase tea production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the names of the States wherein the tea production expansion scheme and the potential thereof have been considered during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) In order to increase tea production under the ongoing 'Tea Plantation Development Scheme' of Tea Board, subsidy is provided to the small holdings in the hilly areas and the North Eastern States for new planting @ 25% of the unit cost subject to the area to be planted by an individual grower not exceeding 4 hectares.

During the last 3 financial years, about 2549.76 hectares have been brought under new planting in the small holdings located in the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.

Export of Darjeeling Tea

†1026. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of India in present world tea market;
- (b) the details of quantity of Darjeeling tea exported during the current year along with the monetary value thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that other private companies are trying to run their business by using the trade mark of Darjeeling tea; and
- (d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India is the largest producer of Black Tea as well as the largest consumer of tea in the world. India produces 25% of total world production and consumes

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about 22% of total world consumption of tea. Nearly 80% of the tea produced is consumed within India. India is also the fourth largest tea exporter in the world.

(b) Indian Trade Classification - Harmonized System (ITC HS) Codes for tea are separately available for Green tea and/or Black tea. There is no separate ITC HS Code for Darjeeling tea.

(c) Tea Board under the Darjeeling Certification Trade Mark regime gives licences for use of Darjeeling logo and word to eligible producers, exporters, packers, importers in India and in countries other than India. No other entity can use the logo/word 'Darjeeling'.

(d) Does not arise.

Cashew Development Board at Kollam

1027. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the progress achieved in setting up a Cashew Development Board at Kollam and the tasks that are proposed to be assigned to the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): A decision on setting up of Cashew Board will be taken after detailed deliberations by the Planning Commission with stake holder departments like Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Commerce.

Promotion of salt industries in Gujarat

1028. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian salt industry is lagging behind other countries of the world in the production and manufacturing of iodized edible salt;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the share of Gujarat salt industries in the world manufacturing and production of salt in the world; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard to promote salt industries in Gujarat?