

validity, prior approval of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will be taken if there is sufficient justification to allow area extension for All India. In such cases also all India validity may be allowed for three years and shall be reconsidered after three years by the State Governments with prior concurrence of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Clearing backlog of subsidies to tea industries

*353. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has been urged to clear the sizable backlog of subsidies to the tea industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India's bias towards Crush, Tear, Ourl (CTC) tea had led to a steady erosion of its international market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tea Board has reported a backlog of around Rs. 90 crores on account of various development schemes being implemented for the tea sector. The Current year's Plan allocation of Tea Board has been enhanced to Rs.145 crores from Rs. 133 crores last year and out of this Rs. 72.80 crores released to Tea Board which will help in reducing the backlog.

(c) and (d) India is pre-dominantly a producer of CTC teas which largely cater to domestic demand. The Government of India is providing incentives for the production of orthodox tea which is mainly exported. During the last three years, the export of tea has risen both in terms of quantity as well as in value terms as may be seen from the statement given below :-

Year	Quantity (In million Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2007-08	185.32	1888.68
2008-09	190.64	2381.79
2009-10*	200.24	2721.78

*-Estimated

NHs in Haryana

*354. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: