

to Bhutan and Sri Lanka is exempted from this ban *w.e.f.* 07.08.2006 and 27.11.2006 respectively.

During the year 2009-10, about 95.26 thousand tonnes of Kabuli Chana was exported as this commodity has limited consumption in the domestic market and it's production is much more than the domestic consumption.

Import of tea

†1557. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tea is being imported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the ranking of India at present in term of production of tea and it's quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tea is being imported mainly for re-exports after value addition and also for domestic usage to some extent. The details of tea imported during the last three calendar years and in the current year are as under:—

				(in million kgs)
Head wise	2007	2008	2009	2010 (January- September) (E)
Import for re-export	8.41	11.90	17.45	7.94
Domestic	7.58	8.38	8.01	6.74
TOTAL:	15.99	20.28	25.46	14.68

(E) — estimated and subject to revision.

(c) India ranks 2nd in term of production of tea in the world. India produces some of the world's finest teas. The low temperature in the hills of Darjeeling aids production of the famous Darjeeling tea. Assam teas are well known for their strong, brisk and full bodied liquor and the Nilgiri teas are famous for their delicate flavour, strength and brightness. Other areas, with their diverse agro climatic conditions produce a medley of tea suited to many different tastes. The characteristics of each region was distinct, which sets them apart from one another in many different ways.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.