

क्योंकि यह एक ऐसा विषय है, जिसको कानूनन समाप्त किया गया है। माननीय सदस्य ने इंदिरा जी का स्मरण किया। इंदिरा जी ने 1975 में अपने 20-Point Programme में इसको सम्मिलित किया था और 1976 में enactment के जरिए पार्लियामेंट ने इस प्रथा को समाप्त घोषित कर दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Promotion of tea industry in hilly regions of North-East

*205. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has considered promotion of tea industry in hilly areas of the North-Eastern region on the lines of Assam, as the flavour of tea varies with altitude;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of plan for betterment of Assam tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Promotion of tea cultivation in hilly areas of North-Eastern region is supported and subsidy is provided to small growers @ 25% of the cost for taking up new planting. 3056 hectares, as additional area, have been brought under tea cultivation from 2007-08 to 2010-11.

(c) Several steps have been initiated by the Government to address the problems of the tea producers, manufacturers and exporters in India including Assam. A Special Purpose Tea Fund has been set up for extending financial assistance for replanting and rejuvenation of old aged tea bushes. Financial assistance is also provided for factory modernization, value-addition and quality certification. A scheme to incentivize the production of orthodox tea is also implemented. To facilitate export of tea from Assam, assistance is provided to tea exporters towards meeting the additional transport and handling charges incurred for teas exported through Inland Container Depot (ICD) Amingaon in Assam. The transport subsidy is paid as reimbursement @ Rs. 1.50 per kg. of tea exported from ICD, Amingaon to offset the additional cost being incurred by the Indian tea exporters on account of haulage of empty containers from Kolkata/Haldia Port to ICD, Amingaon.

Special attention is paid towards improving the productivity of small tea holdings which account for nearly 26% of the total production in India. Financial Assistance to small growers is

provided by way of subsidy for new planting (25% of the unit cost), setting up of Mini factories (40% of the unit cost), setting up of leaf collection centers, purchase of leaf carry bags and weighing scales (100% of the unit cost), revolving corpus for inputs @ Rs. 10,000 per ha, organizing study tours, setting up of tea nurseries, demonstrations plots, etc.

SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has considered promotion of tea industry in the hilly areas of North-Eastern region on the lines of Assam as the flavour of tea varies with altitude; if so, the details thereof; and the details of plan for betterment of Assam tea.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, tea is a very, very strategic area for our country. It is an area that, in many ways, provides direct and indirect opportunities, for employment, to over 30 lakh people; 16.5 lakh people directly, and close to 13.5 lakh people indirectly. Having said that, tea also has a very, very important place, I believe, in the brand equity of India globally. Today, India produces close to 23 per cent of global production. We have a market share of close to about 11 per cent of world exports, that is, 213 million kilos. In the last five or six years, the tea industry in India has experienced tremendous growth both in the price area, in terms of prices firming up in the area of exports and in the area of production. Hopefully, this year, we will be able to close at over a billion kilos which is going to be for the first time in the history of our country for which I think not only Government and Tea Board but the tea growers, both small, medium and large tea growers, must be commended by this House as well as the nation. The tea industry is made up of two very important segments, the large tea gardens and the small tea growers. More and more, many more individuals are coming into this area which is a very, very heartening sign for the tea industry. Small growers today constitute close to about 26 per cent of the total industry in India, close to about 1,61,000 small growers from a basket of close to 1,68,000 growers. The hilly areas too, as my colleague, the Member of Parliament has pointed out, is an extremely important area and the Government is extremely committed to promoting tea in hilly areas as well as new areas. There are many schemes which have been formulated by the Tea Board which will promote this enterprise. The Tea Board's financial capacity has grown from Rs. 350 crores in the Tenth Plan to about Rs. 800 crores in the Eleventh Plan. In respect of the hilly areas, especially in the North-Eastern Region, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, etc., we have taken many steps like a 25 per cent subsidy for new planting based on unit-cost basis, which is defined by NABARD, the Special Purpose Tea Fund which is looking at a greater amount of replantation and rejuvenation, financial assistance for market penetration for greater Orthodox production. One of the major areas which have barriers to entry is the cartage and the freight cost and the inland transport cost. For that, a subsidy of one-and-

a-half rupees per kilo is being given by the Tea Board for cartage to Amingavai ICD for exports. Promotion of the Orthodox tea is also in process. We have, for new plants, a 25 per cent subsidy; for new mini factories, a 40 per cent subsidy; for leaf collection, weighing scales and other infrastructure required, a hundred per cent subsidy and also a revolving corpus of Rs. 10,000 for training, for study tours and so on to help the growth in the hilly areas.

SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: My second supplementary is this, Sir. I would like to know the details of the plan for the betterment of the Assam tea.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, Assam is a very, very important stakeholder in the tea industry, not only in India but, I believe, globally. Fifty per cent of the Indian production of tea comes from Assam and, therefore, whatever more we do for Assam is very much the need of the hour. As of now, in the Eleventh Plan period over the last four and a half years, we have dispersed funds to Assam close to about 188 crores of rupees. I will give you the details of the Heads under which this has been given. Under Plantation Development, for new plantation and rejuvenation, it is close to about Rs. 31 crores; for Irrigation and Transport, close to about Rs. 50 crores; for QUPDS, Quality Upgradation Development Scheme, close to Rs. 59 crores; and for Incentive for Production of Orthodox tea, close to about Rs. 47 crores. So, a total of about Rs. 188 crores have already been given to Assam.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, the tea industry plays an important role in our economy. The Assam tea is a world famous tea. From the tea industry, the country is earning a handsome amount of foreign exchange. In Assam, small tea growers play a very important role. Sir, 28 per cent of the total tea production of Assam comes from the small tea growers. But, small tea growers are facing various problems; due to the monopoly of big tea merchants, they are not getting adequate market share. Since they do not get the market share, the cultivators of tea damage their production, they destroy their production. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of the steps his Ministry is going to take to safeguard the interests of small tea growers. In the last Session, the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the hon. Minister had announced a Rs. 500 crores package to help the small tea growers of Assam. What is the status of this package? I would like to know on these from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, as I mentioned in my earlier answer, the small tea growers are increasingly growing in number across the length and breadth of the country, which is a very heartening sign. Having said that, I would say that the Government and the Tea Board, together, are extremely committed to the cause of the small tea growers. We have a number of steps that we put in place to ensure that we encourage greater proliferation of smaller tea growers. We put in place a number of programmes—some of which I have detailed. But, specifically for the small tea growers, we have financial assistance to Self Help Groups. Each SHG is required to have a minimum membership of 50 small tea growers and to an extent

of 50 acres in terms of acreage they are provided with a 100 per cent grant for setting up of a leaf collection centre, storage, godowns and purchasing leaf scales; transport vehicles are provided at a 50 per cent subsidy; Rs. 10,000 per hectare is given to these SHGs to get inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and sprays; a special training camp has been put in place. Very clearly, whether it is the quality upgradation or product diversification scheme a subsidy for machinery is provided; for SHGs, close to about 40 per cent of the subsidy is given. Study tours are being organised for small tea growers because our competition in this area with regard to small tea growers, and where we can learn a lot from, is from the country called Kenya. They have specialised in the small tea growing model. We actually have sent study groups, of small tea growers, three times to Kenya—once in 2006, the second time in 2009 and the third time in 2011.

Now, the most important point that I come to is the issue of ensuring that the small tea growers get the maximum value for their produce. To allay the concern raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that for the first time in our history, we have set up earlier this year, in May, 2011, the Small Tea Growers Directorate to champion the cause of small tea growers. This is one of the largest and most important landmark steps this Government has taken for small tea growers. 95 posts have been granted formal approval — 13 nontechnical and 82 technical. One of the key issues that is, also, in the minds of the people — I would like to raise this issue even though the hon. Member has not raised it — is the relationship between the bought leaf factories and the small tea growers. To ensure that the small tea growers get the maximum value for their produce, one of the key reasons why monitoring was not as efficacious as possible was because of the fact that we did not have inspectors who would monitor the bought leaf factories. Now, with these posts in place, we are appointing 22 factory administrative officers who will go and inspect the factories and make sure that according to the PSF, price sharing formula, the money is distributed to small tea growers.

श्री समन पाठक: धन्यवाद सर। जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में बताया है कि उत्पादकता को बेहतर बनाने हेतु Eleventh Plan की वे तरह कुछ फैसिलिटी और सब्सिडी देने जा रहे हैं। दार्जिलिंग गुणवत्ता के हिसाब से चाय के उत्पादन के लिए विश्व में प्रसिद्ध है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि असम के साथ-साथ जो फैसिलिटी, सब्सिडी की स्कीम्स हैं, वे दार्जिलिंग में स्माल ग्रोवर्स को भी दी जा रही हैं या अलग से दार्जिलिंग को कोई विशेष पैकेज दिया जा रहा है?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we look at tea holistically in our country. For us, the key issue is two-fold. On one side of the metrics, it is really the small tea growers and the large tea growers. Our concentration has to be to look after both areas in this. On the other side, it is geographical. For us, there the key issue is to promote production of tea and growing of tea in hilly areas. The facts, I have enumerated in terms of what steps the Government is taking. Two more issues, Sir, I would like to bring to light because many of our colleagues are very, very concerned about the tea sector, and very rightfully so. Sir, the two steps that my

Government has taken in the last two, two-and-a-half years are these. One of the key issues that is facing the tea industry is the issue of structural informatics and the social cost that is involved with that. We have put the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, IIPM in place to do a structural informatics study. They have come up with a number of recommendations with regard to labour cost, social cost, health, education of tea workers, many of which, we are taking on board, as we prepare our programmes and our plans for the 12th Plan. So, that is one issue.

The other, Sir, is really, as I mentioned, to make sure that we regain our foothold in the global market. I really believe that India's brand equity which is today known for Information Technology and areas of manufacturing should also be known in the plantation sector, specifically tea, because tea has emanated from India, Sir, almost 2000-3000 years ago, and we must get that brand equity back. So, with that in mind, I have put in place a new Plan, which we call "555", which means, five countries, five steps, five years. We are focussing on Iran, the U.S., Kazakhstan, Egypt and Russia, which are our prominent markets. For these five countries, from an export point of view, looking at five steps, over a period of five years, the Government of India — and this is a proposal we are making — wants to put in place close to about a Rs. 100 crore programme for this, which will be a PPP, public private partnership model, where the private sector will have to bring in 25 per cent and the Government will put in 75 per cent. So, we are committing ourselves, over a period of time, if it gets approval in the Twelfth Plan, to a Rs. 100 crore plan of promoting and branding India Tea in five tea export markets. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, my specific question is whether...

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, if I may just respond to Mr. Yechury — he talked about "555", as a brand — one he promotes...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we are running out of time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He promotes a multinational brand ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roy, please go ahead.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, my specific question is whether the Government has introduced any special monitoring system to look into proper utilisation of what is called the Special Purpose Tea Fund, or, it is left to the discretion of the bureaucrats in the Tea Board.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the SPTF is a very, very ambitious and a very important scheme, keeping in mind the present scenario of the tea industry in India.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: I want to know about the monitoring aspect of it.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: One of the key issues that we are facing is the issue of the age and the senility of our tea bushes. We must make sure that more and more people come on board for this programme. We monitor it extremely closely, Sir. I would just like to apprise the hon. Member of our achievement, as of today. Over the last four-and-a-half years, we have, on a replantation basis, achieved 21000 hectares, rejuvenation 6000 hectares, and as a subsidy given out about Rs. 109 crores. Of these 1686 tea gardens, we are focussing on a sub-set of 1140, because these are where the senility of tea bushes are the maximum. And of 1140, close to 845 have committed to being part of the SPTF Programme; 728 of which have also given a seven-year programme for re-plantation and rejuvenation, where, over the seven years, they will re-plant and rejuvenate close to 60000 hectares of tea bushes.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Who is monitoring it?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we are monitoring it....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Question No. 206, please.

**Replacement of paintings at Lalit Kala Academy
with fake ones**

*206. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether information regarding valuable paintings at the Lalit Kala Academy being replaced with fake ones, has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when this information is likely to be available?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One such reference of one of the paintings of Shri Ram Kumar being replaced by a fake painting was brought to the notice of Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) in the year 2003. On 26 December, 2003, the Station House Officer, Tilak Marg Police Station, was requested by LKA to register the above case. The CBI was also contacted to take up the work of investigation and on 13 April, 2004, the case under 380 IPC was finally registered at the Tilak Marg Police Station at the behest of the CBI. After carrying out enquiries and investigations in