

(b) what has been the return on this investment since it came into production; and

(c) what was the price of land when allotted by Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) and what is the market rate now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) MMTC has invested a total amount of ₹ 17.44 crores in the joint venture project, MMTC PAMP India Pvt. Ltd. (MPIPL).

(b) The plant commenced commercial production from April, 2012. An amount of ₹ 5.23 crores has been paid by the joint venture company to MMTC as 30% dividend on 29.05.2014 for the year 2013-14.

(c) The land was allotted by Haryana Urban Development Authority, at a cost of ₹ 22.28 crore. Current Market Rate is not assessable.

#### **Pesticide residue in tea**

314. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticide residue is identified in the production of tea, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Greenpeace Report also confirms this matter; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make tea industry sustainable and eco-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) defines Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for the pesticides that are allowed to be present in tea. The Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) of the Government of India has permitted 37 Plant Protection Formulations (PPFs) including pesticides for use in tea plantations of India. The list of formulations and the MRLs are regularly reviewed by the CIBRC and the FSSAI to incorporate latest science and ensure that the least hazardous materials are used.

(b) The Tea Board of India, having reviewed the findings of the Greenpeace study, has concluded that all the samples tested comply with the Indian laws and regulations.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to reduce reliance on synthetic plant protection formulations and to ensure that Indian tea continues to meet the high standards expected by the consumers. Towards this end, the Plant Protection Code has been introduced by the Tea Board which lays down guidelines for safe intervals for PPF use during the tea cultivation and harvest cycle, water quality, workers' safety and equipment maintenance for PPF spraying, safe disposal of PPF containers, transportation, storage and application of PPFs and end product testing. Tea Board has also partnered with the industry to implement pilot projects for using non synthetic plant protection formulations for tea cultivation. 'Trustea', an industry-led initiative, has been launched to enforce quality in manufactured tea. 'Trustea' certificate is granted to manufacturing units that do not use plant formulations banned by the Central and State Governments or its affiliated bodies. Further, the FSSAI undertakes regular review of the MRLs for permitted chemicals with a view to harmonize Indian sustainability and production standards with international standards.

#### **SC/ST employees**

†315. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strength of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in the Ministry is insufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of vacancies against different posts in the Ministry in various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and the number of posts to be filled and the actual number of SC/ST employees working in the Ministry;

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) by when all the vacancies in the Ministry are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Policy of reservation in services under the Government of India is implemented as per instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel and Training.

(c) Recruitment to different categories of posts in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, except the posts of Indian Trade Service (ITS), Indian Supply Service

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.