

**Freeing tea plantation of mandatory permission  
from tea board**

1946. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to free tea plantation of mandatory permission from the Tea Board, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether tea traders have warned that it could have adverse impact on quality of tea, if it is not regulated, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed change contradicts the policy of Tea Board which stresses the need of Trustea logo for tea producers and small growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) As the tea sector has undergone several changes since inception of the Tea Act, 1953, the Law Commission, in its 159th Report has recommended, *inter-alia*, amendment of the Tea Act, 1953. Accordingly, the government undertook an exercise of consulting stakeholders and obtaining their interests and views on the amendments to the Tea Act, 1953. The draft amendments have been prepared in order to liberalise the sector and equip the Indian tea industry to face international competition including the challenges of quality of tea manufactured in and exported, by the country. The draft was made available on the website of the Tea Board for comments/views/suggestions from the public. No representation has been received from the tea traders.

(c) and (d) The Tea Board promotes sustainable production and manufacture of quality tea through various measures including exercise of regulatory powers and provisions under the Tea Act, 1953, and the rules thereunder. Trustea is, however, a voluntary certification programme encouraged by the Tea Board and is consistent with the overall objective of promoting production and export of quality tea by the Tea Board.

**Identification of non-tariff issues stalling exports**

1947. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified certain non-tariff issues which are stalling Indian exports;

(b) if so, what action has Government taken to ensure that non-tariff issues and complications are resolved for the benefit of Indian exports;