

Sl. No.	Year/Month	Manufacturing Growth Rate (in %)
8.	December, 14	4.1
9.	January, 15	3.4
10.	February, 15	5.1
11.	March, 15	2.7
12.	April, 15	3.9
13.	May, 15	2.1
14.	June, 15	5.2
15.	July, 15	4.8
16.	August, 15	6.6
17.	September, 15	2.7
18.	October, 15	10.6
19.	November, 15	-4.6
20.	December, 15	-2.2
21.	January, 16	-2.8
22.	February, 16	0.7

Foreign exchange earnings from exports of tea

†1926. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is earning foreign exchange from exports of tea;
- (b) if so, the details of total production and exports of tea made from financial year 2012-13 to 2015-16;
- (c) whether Government would extend financial assistance to small tea plantation of States for enhancing quality and promotion of tea with a view to earn more foreign exchange; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Tea exports account for valuable foreign exchange earnings for the country. The details of total tea production and exports with foreign exchange earnings during 2012-13 to 2015-16 are given in the following table:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Production (M. Kgs)	Exports (M.Kgs.)	Value (M US\$)
2012-13	1135.07	216.23	735.90
2013-14	1208.78	225.76	746.46
2014-15	1197.18	199.08	625.55
2015-16 (E)	1213.03	220.84	641.95

(E)—Estimated and subject to revision

(c) and (d) The Government implements through the Tea Board, the 'Tea Development and Promotion Scheme' during the XII Plan which has a separate component for small growers' development. The Scheme includes outlays, *inter-alia*, for planting support to small growers, modernization of tea manufacturing units with special focus on enhancement of quality, warehouses, value addition of tea through blending, packing, tea bagging, quality certification and for Organic/Orthodox/Green tea production.

The Tea Board also organises extensive training, workshop, field demonstration, etc. on good agricultural practices, for the small tea growers. Technical Advices are extended to individual small tea growers on seasonal cultural practices like pruning, plucking pest management etc.

Fall in export of spices

1927. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is steep drop in country's export of spices, particularly chillies;

(b) if so, year-wise details thereof for the last two years and reasons for the drop; and

(c) what remedial measures Government proposes to take to increase the export of spices from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) There is no drop in India's exports of the spices including Chillies in the recent years. The export of spices from the country has shown a steady increase as per details given below: