

**Increase in tea exports**

1771. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact India's exports of tea have increased by 4.6 per cent in volume in the first seven months of the year 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that two countries where Indian tea has made major inroads were China and Sri Lanka;

(c) whether it is also a fact that export of tea to Egypt, Ukraine and Kazakhstan has also increased in this period; and

(d) whether the increase in export of tea was due to the results of the expositions and delegations that Tea Board had facilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Exports of tea from India have increased by 4.58% during January to July, 2017 as compared to the same period last year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indian tea export has registered a very high growth of 71.02% and 150.00% for China and Sri Lanka respectively during the period from January to July 2017 as compared to the same period last year. Exports of Indian tea to Egypt, Ukraine and Kazakhstan also witnessed a growth of 98.23%, 20.36% and 10.23% respectively.

(d) The increase in Indian tea exports can be attributed to promotional activities undertaken by the Tea Board and exporters in the prominent export destinations which *inter-alia* includes participation in major trade fairs and mounting trade delegations for establishing business contacts, etc.

**Checking of export items at Attari-Wagah check post**

1772. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of exporters of vegetables and other perishable items to Pakistan through Attari-Wagah check post have been facing a lot of difficulties in exporting their goods as it is held up in the quarantine department and not allowed to go further in the market;