

	1	2	3	4	5
	Chhindwara/Guna/ Fursatganj/Chennai	61,000	46,000	--	
2017	Noida	91,000	76,000	--	3.2
	Kolkata/Rohtak/ Jodhpur/ Hyderabad/Patna/ Ankleshwar/ Chandigarh	71,000	56,000	--	
	Chhindwara/ Guna Fursatganj/ Chennai	61,000	46,000	--	
2018	Noida	91,400	76,400	--	--
	Others	71,400	56,400	--	

Remarks: Other than the above fee ₹ 10,000/- is charged against Refundable Security Deposit in the first semester.

Export of tea to Chile

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Chile is a virgin market for tea where tea exporters are seeking entry leveraging the friendly relations between the two countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that India closed 2016-17 with exports of 222.9 million kgs of tea, which was nearly 5 per cent lower than 232.9 million kgs exported in 2015-16;

(c) whether the lacklustre international demand for tea had also contributed to the lower exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Chile is an important potential market for Indian Tea exporters. Steps have already been taken for exploring the same through mounting of Tea Trade delegation in 2017.

(b) to (d) The Indian Tea exports during 2016-17 was 227.63 million kgs which is about 2.27% lower than that of exports during 2015-16 (232.92 million kgs). As per International Tea Committee (ITC) data, there was an overproduction

of 297 million kgs of tea in 2016 internationally, which indicates a lower demand than supply in global scenario. Details of world demand and supply of tea is as under:

(in million Kgs)

Year	World production	World consumption	Over production
2014	5200	4879	321
2015	5281	5029	252
2016	5503	5206	297

Exemption of unbranded food products from GST

963. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has written to the Ministry of Finance to consider an alternative of GST Council's decision to exempt from GST the unbranded food products that are not registered under the Trade Marks Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has written to Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance with regards to the notifications dated 28.06.2017 and 22.09.2017 on branded food products, with the suggestion that GST on food products may be levied at the same rate for any particular item, irrespective of whether it is sold as an unbranded or branded item.

The notifications link the exemption from GST to voluntary forgoing of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) of Trademarks and Copyrights. The suggestion is based on the examination of the notifications in light of the provisions in Trade Marks Act, 1999 and Copyright Act, 1957. IPRs are primarily private rights which can only be enforced by the IP owners themselves. Thus, if the IP owner cannot enforce his right, then unscrupulous elements may sell inferior/counterfeit products under the same or similar brand name. This would cause confusion in the minds of consumers who would be misled into buying such counterfeit products; being food products, this may raise serious health safety issues also.