

Problems faced by small tea growers of Assam

1303. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Dibrugarh based Small Tea Growers (STG) Development Directorate has not been functional;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by the Small Tea Growers of Assam following closure of the Development Directorate; and
- (d) whether Government is serious about activating the Directorate in the larger interest of Small Tea Growers of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. A Small Growers Development Directorate has been set up at Dibrugarh, Assam and sub-regional offices have also been set up in the areas of small growers concentrations to cater to their needs at the grass-root level. The Directorate has been fully functional since its inception in April, 2013 and has been extending services which, *inter-alia*, includes training and technical advice to the growers on specific cultural operations.

Initiatives by APEDA to promote agricultural exports

1304. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding initiatives taken by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to promote export of agricultural products along with details of agricultural products thereon;
- (b) the achievements of such initiatives during the last three years;
- (c) whether details regarding promotion of agricultural products from different States are available; and
- (d) if so, the details in respect of Rajasthan and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion