

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Publicity and Promotion Literature	0.04	2	0.00	15.07	0.20	1
Brand Publicity Through Advertisement	0.01	1	0.40	4	1.00	5
Assistance Program for Participation in International Fair -MDA	0.12	4	0.50	20	0.16	6
TOTAL	21.02	174	23.46	191	23.44	86

4. Transport Assistance

Transport Assistance	55.88	252	56.79	310	42.71	302
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Import of onion

1305. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country exported a fairly large quantity of onions in 2017-18 and is now importing it again from China and Egypt when the prices skyrocketed during the later months of 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) why concrete timely steps were not taken to keep enough buffer stock of onion in cold storages rather than allowing exports to maintain stability in price for the entire year; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to avoid repeat of such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the same period in 2016-17, the country has exported 15,99,733 MTs of onion whereas during the current year 2017-18 till (November, 2017), there has been an export of 11,42,918 MTs which is around 28% less than the previous year. During the current year (till November, 2017) the country imported 6,168 MTs of onion from Egypt which is less than 0.6% of the total onion exported by the country till November, 2017.

(c) As per the estimates of NHDRF, the storage of Onions during 2017 at 48.73 LMT was similar to the storage in the previous year when prices ruled low. Prices of Onions during April-July 2017 continued to remain low and restricting export at that

stage would have affected the prices further. Prices of Onions increased subsequently due to various factors including demand/supply mismatch due to lower production of Kharif Onion. The Onion cold storages are not commercialized in our country. Only a small numbers of cold storages especially in Gujarat have been built for storage of Onion, that too are not economical. The Onion growers are storing their Onion in the conventional ventilated type of storages which are most economical.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to help moderate the prices which, *inter alia*, include directing NAFED & SFAC to procure from producing regions for supply to consuming areas, imposition of MEP on Export, enable States to impose control measures including stock limits, directing MMTC to import, etc.

Taking over management of tea gardens in West Bengal

1306. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has authorised the Tea Board to take over the management of seven tea gardens owned by the Duncan Industries in the Northern part of West Bengal;

(b) if so, when was the decision made;

(c) whether the decision has been implemented by the Tea Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government of India *vide* Gazette Notification No. S.O. 260(E) dated 28th January, 2016 authorized Tea Board to take steps to take over the management control of Birpara Tea Estate, Garganda Tea Estate, Lankapara Tea Estate, Tulsipara Tea Estate, Huntapara Tea Estate and Dunchipara Tea Estate owned by M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. and Demdima Tea Estate owned by M/s Shantipara Tea Co. Ltd. a sister concern of M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. in North Bengal.

(c) to (e) Tea Board took immediate steps by inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested tea companies for handing over the management control of the seven notified tea estates. In the meantime, M/s. Duncans Industries Ltd. and M/s Shantipara Tea Co. Ltd. approached the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta for such action of Tea