

(d) Since Punjab has not been categorized as Special category State, there is no proposal under consideration in respect of Punjab in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

Export target for tea

2087. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian tea exports have touched a record high in 36 years at 240.7 million kg. in the year 2017, the previous high of 241.3 million kg. having been achieved in the year 1981;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it seems export target of 275 million kg. by 2020 is possible;

(c) whether in several countries, including the US, Indian tea were sold at prices which were higher than the average export price of US dollar three per kg.; 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. The year 2017 has seen a record export of tea from India at 240.68 M.Kgs., the highest quantity exported in the last 36 years since 1981.

(b) It has been a continuous endeavor of Tea Board and the tea industry to strategize ways and means to increase export. In order to increase share of Indian tea in the international market, focused and sustained initiatives such as arranging buyer-seller meets, effecting exchange of delegations, participating in international trade fairs and undertaking generic promotion of Indian Brands in key markets are taken up by the Tea Board.

The domestic consumption of Tea in the country is around 82% of the total production. Therefore, keeping all the factors into consideration, which *inter alia* also includes favorable climate for production and demand supply situations, it is not possible to set a specific tea export target for 2020.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. In addition to USA, Indian tea are exported at an average price of more than three dollar per kg. to 11 more destinations. The details are as given below:—

Country	2017*		
	Qty. (M.Kgs)	Value (M US\$)	Unit Price (\$/Kg)
Japan	3.33	20.57	6.18
Ireland	2.50	14.91	5.96
Australia	2.89	16.05	5.55
Canada	2.44	10.46	4.29
Singapore	0.45	1.90	4.22
U.S.A.	14.09	58.44	4.15
Iran	28.05	108.64	3.87
Saudi Arabia	4.20	15.52	3.69
Germany	9.95	34.81	3.50
Netherlands	3.90	12.99	3.33
U.A.E.	18.93	58.62	3.10
United Kingdom	15.99	48.39	3.03

*Provisional.

Import of cheap arecanut, pepper etc. from Sri Lanka

2088. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases about import of cheap arecanut, pepper and other commodities to India from Sri Lanka under false declaration of origin have been reported;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years thereof;

(c) whether Government is taking any measures to check such imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 22 cases have been booked by the field