

Release of subsidy to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under Special Package Scheme:—

Name of State	(₹ in crores)			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Jammu and Kashmir	37.12	-	10.17	46.62
Himachal Pradesh	18.32	0.228	8.82	40.37
Uttarakhand	44.46	22.78	5.71	26.94

Steps to protect interest of small tea growers

2297. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government is taking to protect the interests of small tea growers in Assam;

(b) whether it is estimated that about one crore people are engaged in tea farming and small and marginalised tea growers sell their products and the same product is resold by MNCs at twenty times higher rates; and

(c) whether Government has planned any mechanism to give optimum benefit to small tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) In order to protect the interests of small tea growers in the country, including Assam, financial assistance is provided for improvement in tea production, productivity, quality upgradation, etc. under the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” being implemented by the Tea Board. Further, in order to encourage the small tea growers to have their own tea manufacturing factories and get better price for their produce, the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 has been amended and mini tea processing factories have been exempted from obtaining any registration/no objection certificate. A Small Growers Development Directorate at Dibrugarh, Assam and its sub-regional offices set up in the areas of small growers concentrations are addressing the issues of small tea growers at the grass-root level.

(b) As per baseline survey carried out by Tea Board in the year 2015, the total number of workers engaged in tea plantations in India is about 1.13 million. The small growers sell their produce (raw tea leaves) to tea manufacturers (tea factories) who process it into finished tea and sell it at the public tea auctions and also privately.

The small growers are paid for their produce as per Price Sharing Formula (PSF) which differs from region to region and ranges from 44% to 69% based on outturn. Further, value addition is done to the teas subsequently in the form of blending, packaging, labeling etc. by the packeters (which includes MNCs) and also by some estate and bought leaf factories which is then packed into their own retail brands based on their market requirement. The price fetched after value addition for packet teas is higher than the primary auction/private sale price.

(c) For ensuring better remunerative prices of green leaf to tea growers, District Green Leaf Price Monitoring Committees have been set up in every tea growing district under the Chairmanship of District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners. The Committee constitutes representatives from small tea growers, Estate factories, Bought Leaf Factories and Tea Board. The Committee monitors and oversees the compliance of payment of average green leaf price payable to the small tea growers for each succeeding month based on the last month average auction price of Bought Leaf Factories of such districts by applying the Price Sharing Formula.

Guidelines for Free Trade and Warehousing Zones

2298. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exclusive rules and guidelines are being made for Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZ) for actual users of FTWZ services *i.e.* client/customers of FTWZ unit service provider, Indian/Foreign suppliers and buyers to make FTWZ concept a success and hasslefree; and

(b) whether Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) issuance and sanctioning of duty drawback can be extended to competent authority in FTWZ in order to promote exports through FTWZ units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Sir, a Committee headed by Development Commissioner, Noida Special Economic Zone was constituted by the Government for review of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Rules, 2006. The Committee has suggested incorporation of a separate chapter for Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) in SEZs Rules, 2006. The proposed changes in SEZs Rules, 2006 with regards FTWZs are examined in consultation with Department of Revenue.

(b) No sir, at present Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and duty drawback are not available to Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) units.