

including with Export Promotion Councils and received inputs which were taken into consideration while formulating India's position in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. During the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join RCEP in its current form. India's position in RCEP was also aimed at protecting the interests and domestic sensitivities of its stakeholders.

#### **Decline in tea production in Southern States**

703. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea production in the Southern States, especially in the Nilgiris, has declined by 15 per cent in 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of the reasons for the falling production of tea was due to unfavourable weather conditions in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) to (c) The production of tea in the South Indian States (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka) declined from 224.87 million kgs. (in 2018) to 219.04 million kgs. (in 2019), thereby exhibiting a decline of 2.59%. The tea production in Nilgiris exhibited a reduction of 1.99% during 2019 as compared to 2018. The decline in tea production is attributable, *inter alia*, to un-even distribution of rain and localised pest infestation.

#### **Allocation of funds for projects under CSR**

704. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings under the purview of the Ministry have been allocating funds for taking up projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the total funds allocated and projects undertaken by these companies under this head during the last three years and the current year along with their present status, company and State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has laid down any specific norms regarding the utilisation of funds under the CSR, particularly in tribal areas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Public Sector Undertakings have been allocating funds for taking up projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme as per the provisions of the law and DPE guidelines.

(b) The details of total CSR funds allocated and projects undertaken during the last three years and current year, are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) As per CSR provisions in Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 and Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 notified thereunder, management of CPSEs may decide in their CSR policy to undertake CSR activities as per items listed in Schedule-VII of the Act in any part of the country, including tribal areas.

**Statement**

*Details of CSR fund allocated and project undertaken during the last 3 years*

(₹ in lakh)

Year	Amount of CSR Spent	States	Present Status	Main Sector/ Development Area
1	2	3	4	5

**MMTC**

2016-17	81.41	Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi	Completed	Contribution to the National Sports Development Fund(NSDF), Environment and Swachh Bharat, Drinking Water, Sanitation, contribution to Clean Ganga Fund, Skill Development, Promotion of Sports, Social Welfare
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Besides the above, during 2016-17, there was a contribution of ₹ 5 lakhs made to the Special Olympics Bharat for kits for Para-sportspersons representing the country in Special Olympics in Austria. This initiative was undertaken to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympics sports and Olympic sports.