

**Review of existing laws governing tea sector**

\*295. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the existing laws and rules/regulations governing the tea sector like the Tea Act, 1953, the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 and the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003, to meet the challenges of the times;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the laws governing the tea sector and the problems faced in their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) The Tea Act was enacted in 1953 with the objective of addressing the needs of the tea industry. Since the inception of the Tea Act, 1953, the Act and the Rules and Control Orders made thereunder, including the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005, have undergone several changes. Reviewing the laws governing the tea sector, is an ongoing process, to enhance the effectiveness of the regulatory and developmental regime, wherever felt necessary.

The provisions of the Tea Act and Control Orders are implemented through the Tea Board, which has various offices and human resources deployed in the tea growing regions of the country, for this purpose.

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा (असम): माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो answer दिया है, वह इतना satisfactory नहीं है, फिर भी I would like to ask as to what steps have been taken by the Government to implement the laws. अभी तक 'Tea Act, 1953', 'Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005' and 'Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003' बनाए गए, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अभी भी tea industry बहुत गहरे संकट में है? इसके लिए माननीय मंत्री जी एवं इनका मंत्रालय क्या सोच रहे हैं? मुझे नहीं लगता है कि इस संबंध में इनका मंत्रालय बहुत सीरियस है। मैंने मंत्री जी से इसके लिए रिक्वेस्ट भी किया था। I want to know as to what steps the Ministry is going to take to save the tea industry of India.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, the Government is very much committed to the development of tea industry and from time to time several orders come out and several schemes also brought out in order to promote the tea industry. In fact, I was just seeing the figures, Sir, the amount of subsidy also, has significantly gone up throughout the country whether it is North-East, West Bengal or South India. Sir, overall 54 per cent increase in the amount of subsidy can be seen between 2018-19 and 2019-20. Apart from that, several schemes for tea development and promotion which have been implemented by the Tea Board, those schemes include re-plantation, rejuvenation, field mechanization, factory modernization, quality certification and also the workers' welfare. So, we are working on a series of special packages for some new areas also. For example, in Kangra, in Himachal Pradesh, we are now trying to promote tea production. Also, the North-Eastern States are another focus area now for tea promotion, particularly Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Sir, Uttarakhand has started a tea development board and we are supporting them. So, the idea is that we must promote tea production all over the country. We have an important initiative meant for promoting organic tea which is becoming the flavour of the season and there is a lot of acceptance world-wide also for organic and herbal teas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 296

**Increasing local trains/EMUs in West Bengal State**

\*296. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to increase the number/frequency of local trains/Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains between Katwa-Bardhaman-Katwa under the Eastern Railways, Kolkata;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that pairs of local trains running daily in the said route are insufficient for the public; and

(c) if so, the average sale of tickets on this route monthly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ANGADI SURESH CHANNABASAPPA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (c) No, Sir. Barddhaman-Katwa section is being served by 6 pairs of 12 Car Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains which are considered adequate for the