

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1958
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022

CRISIS OF DARJEELING TEA INDUSTRY

1958 SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the severity of crisis among growers of Darjeeling tea;
- (b) the reasons for recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee not being acted upon;
- (c) whether Government is aware that cheaper imports of Nepal tea under the trade agreement has caused damage to high class Darjeeling tea;
- (d) by when the long pending Tea Board subsidy would be disbursed; and
- (e) whether Government is considering any relief scheme to protect Darjeeling tea from further destruction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The Darjeeling Tea is protected by Certification Trade Mark and Geographical Indication and have a distinct logo. The details of Darjeeling Tea production during the last five years is as under:

Year	Darjeeling production (Qty in million kgs)
2017-18	3.29
2018-19	7.70
2019-20	7.85
2020-21	6.74
2021-22	7.15

In reference to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce regarding influx of Nepal tea, the following action has been taken:

- (i) The Tea Board has issued instructions on 11.11.2021 directing all importers and buyers of tea to ensure that origin of imported tea to be mentioned in all their sale invoices and not to pass off imported tea as tea of Indian origin.

- (ii) All distributors and blenders of tea have been directed that the label should clearly indicate on the packaging that the contents of the blended Tea are imported, giving the source of origin of imported tea irrespective of whether the imported tea has been bought directly or through an intermediary.
 - (iii) All importers importing tea into India for distribution in India shall inform about the place of storage of such imported tea to the nearest Tea Board Office within 24 hours of entry of such tea into India.
 - (iv) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has conducted joint training of Tea Board, customs officials notified as authorized officers at Land Custom Stations (LCS) and FSSAI for strengthening of food import clearance of tea from Nepal.
- (d): Tea Board disburses subsidies to eligible tea stakeholders as per the budget provisions and approved scheme guidelines. All cases where subsidy was sanctioned have been disbursed, hence there is no pendency.
- (e): At present, no separate relief scheme for Darjeeling Tea is under consideration.
