

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*364**  
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

**CONSULTATION BEFORE FINALISING THE DATE TO STOP PLUCKING OF TEA  
LEAVES**

\*364. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of West Bengal was not consulted before finalising the date to stop plucking of tea leaves in the tea gardens of the State; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*364 FOR ANSWER ON 04<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2025 REGARDING  
“CONSULTATION BEFORE FINALISING THE DATE TO STOP PLUCKING OF  
TEA LEAVES”**

(a) Tea Board is a statutory body set up under the Tea Act 1953. The Board members of Tea Board include representatives of tea manufactures, dealers, owners of tea estates & gardens and State Governments of major tea producing states, including the State Government of West Bengal.

(b) The decisions regarding winter closure of factories are deliberated and approved in the Board meetings of Tea Board. The agenda and minutes of the Board meetings are circulated to its members.

The decision taken by Tea Board regarding the date of winter factory closure and corresponding cessation of plucking for the year 2024 was deliberated and approved in its 250<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. In 2024, Tea Board had also carried out consultations with various stakeholders, including major producer associations having members from various states, including the state of West Bengal before finalizing the date for winter factory closure.

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