

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4868
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2025

DECLINE IN DARJEELING TEA PRODUCTION

4868. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the primary factors identified by the Ministry and the Tea Board of India for the decline in Darjeeling tea production;
- (b) the details of specific measures taken to mitigate the effects of climate change on Darjeeling tea production, and the details of long-term strategies are being developed to ensure the sustainability of the industry;
- (c) the details of steps are being taken to improve working conditions of workers; and
- (d) the details of strategies are being implemented to maintain and promote the global brand and market position of Darjeeling tea, given the decreased production and potential impact on export volumes?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) The Darjeeling tea production gets impacted by various factors which inter alia include old and senile tea bushes, conversion to organic tea which leads to lower yields and effects of climate change.

The measures adopted by the Tea Board to combat the impact of climate change, inter alia include, planting of drought tolerant cultivars, improving farm management practices, integrated nutrient management, promoting organic agriculture practices in tea, retaining pruning litter and share tree droppings, application of decomposed tea waste, mulching with succulent vegetative matter to reduce soil erosion and minimize raising soil temperature, integrated pest management, maintaining optimum population of shade trees, creation of proper drainage systems and rain water harvesting for better water management.

(c) The working condition of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, which is implemented by respective State Governments.

(d) Tea Board regularly promotes Indian tea in domestic and international markets. Generic promotion of Indian Tea, including Darjeeling tea, is carried out by the Tea Board through participation in various domestic and international promotional events, fairs and exhibitions, tea tasting and tea sampling activities and through various Indian Missions abroad.
