

# CEC Working Paper

## STUDY ON EXISTING POLICIES ON SMALL TEA GROWERS IN INDIA

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2007

**'Sustainable Livelihood for Small Tea Growers and Workers in India'**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Across the four states of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, very few small tea growers (STG) are registered with Tea Board of India. The main problems relate to proper land document, absence of land regularisation by various state governments, policy hazards like lengthy registration process, and high amount of salami for vest land. As the STGs are less organised and unionised, they have little bargaining strength with bought-leaf factories (BLF), and the emergence of leaf agents (middlemen) is inevitable. Consequently, STGs are not receiving fair terms of trade for their products. Moreover, poor agricultural practices – caused by lack of financial capital, credit access, and technical know-how – lead to production of low-quality leaf. Weak extension services along with absence of adequate policy protection hinders smooth functioning as well as fetching fair price in the market.

The present study seeks to understand the existing situation with the help of primary and secondary literature, field visits, and interaction with stakeholders like STG societies, STG associations, and tea board officials.

## ***Research Topic: 'Existing Policies on Small Tea Growers in India'***

The objective is to understand the policy initiatives meant for the tea producing sector in general and for STGs in particular, adopted so far by Tea Board and local, state and central governments to improve the conditions of the targeted group. The study should carry policy recommendations to improve the conditions of the STG sector and to stress the need for a tea policy that is conducive to STGs.

## ***Rationale of the Study***

Primary investigation revealed that the existing policy on tea industry is either meant for big plantations or it is not reaching the small tea growers. This eventually results in inaccessibility of small tea growers to government supports. Main reasons may be rigidities in registering gardens with Tea Board and inadequate documents on landholding that the small growers possess. The study shall try to analyse the areas of concern and scope for improvement.

## ***Focus of the Study***

- To study the existing landholding pattern of STGs in India
- To review the policies of Tea Board of India
- To analyse government schemes other than Tea Board schemes
- To verify the government and Tea Board schemes and supports extended to STGs
- Initiatives and supports from institutions like UPASI, Tea research institutes and other organisations

## 2. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION OF STGs WITH TEA BOARD OF INDIA

Individual registration of STGs with Tea Board is linked with the availability of proper land documents. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the village administrative officer (VAO) certifies and issues land possession certificate to an individual grower (Annexure I). Only with the land possession certificate and rent receipt can one apply for Tea Board registration. In West Bengal, a no-objection certificate (NOC) is the prerequisite for registration from land reforms department, government of West Bengal. In Assam, most of the STGs lack valid land documents; until and unless the government initiates land regularisation, the STGs would be denied the benefits extended by Tea Board of India. The following documents are required to be furnished by an individual STG for Tea Board registration:

- a) Land possession certificate
- b) Sale deed of the land in possession
- c) Latest rent receipt
- d) Soil suitability status by the Tea Board approved laboratories
- e) Survey map of the proposed area to be planted by the Tea Board approved surveyor (Annexure II)
- f) Declaration/affidavit by the owner/owners of the land
- g) No-objection certificate from land reforms department, government of West Bengal<sup>1</sup>

All the above mentioned documents are required for Tea Board registration in a separate form attached in Annexure III.

**TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF STGs IN INDIA (2005)**

State	Number of STGs*	Area (in ha)	Registered with Tea Board	% of registered STGs
Assam	42,492	41,249	1,852	4.35
West Bengal	8,398	9,500	479	5.70
Tamil Nadu	61,985	43,157	59,111**	95.36
Kerala	5,999	4,810	2,648	44.14
Other states	7,382	8,032	7,586	102.76+
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,256</b>	<b>106,748</b>	<b>71,676</b>	<b>56.77</b>

\*These facts have been reported by STG associations to the Tea Board of India.

\*\*The STGs in Tamil Nadu are given temporary registration under the Price Subsidy Scheme.

+Numbers of STGs reported by STG associations are less than the actual Tea Board-registered STGs.

*Source: Unpublished data collected from directorate of tea development, Tea Board of India, Kolkata*

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<sup>1</sup>This is applicable only in West Bengal; STGs in Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala do not require such permission for planting tea.

### 3. LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERN AND POLICIES TOWARDS STG

The total number of STGs in Nilgiris is 61,985 as per the records of directorate of tea development, Tea Board of India. The total number of small and marginal STGs is 23,052. It is this section of STGs that are mainly excluded from policy benefits, as most of them do not own valid land documents.

**TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF SMALL AND MARGINAL STGs IN NILGIRIS**

Sl no.	Block/taluk	No. of small and marginal STGs
1	Kunda	6,611
2	Coonoor	4,924
3	Kotagiri	5,808
4	Gudalur and Pandalur	5,709
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,052</b>

[Small STGs: 1.0 to 2.0 hectares; marginal STGs: 0.5 to 1.0 hectare]

Source: Department of Horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu, Ooty

In North Bengal, approximately 3/4th of the total STGs have a holding size below four acres as per the study done by the department of commerce and economics, North Bengal University. Most of the STGs have not obtained 'no-objection certificate' from land reforms department, government of West Bengal, though they have valid land documents.

**TABLE 3: HOLDING SIZES OF STGs IN NORTH BENGAL**

Sl no.	Landholding size (in acre)	Number of STGs (in %)
1	Up to 2	46.84
2	2-4	27.85
3	4-6	8.86
4	6-10	10.13
5	10-25	6.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey, Commerce and Economics Department, North Bengal University

Forest/reserve land in Assam is technically called **tauzi land** (locally known as **tauzu bahi**), and it is government land. For **tauzi**, the occupant can pay land tax/revenues and use it. Another form of land in the state is **myadi land**, which is not government land, and the owner of this land has every right to use it as per constitutional provisions. Thus, only **myadi patta** holders are actual owners of a land. **Aksona** is another form of government land. Unfortunately, most of the STGs occupy **tauzi land**, and hence, **tauzi patta** is the requirement for individual registration with Tea Board of India.

**TABLE 4: HOLDING SIZES OF STG s IN ASSAM**

<b>Sl no.</b>	<b>Landholding size (in bigha)</b>	<b>Number of STGs (in %)</b>
1	< 5	10.28
2	5-9	25.63
3	10-19	34.68
4	20-29	14.17
5	30-39	6.37
6	40-49	4.32
7	50-59	2.32
8	60-69	1.49
9	70 >	0.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Baruah, S, and Taparia, M. 2004: Small Tea Growers of Assam: Status and Strategies, The Assam Review and Tea News, December 2004, pp. 10-18*

## **4. STG PRODUCERS SOCIETY REGISTRATION**

Tea Board of India has introduced an innovative idea for the formation of STG societies under the Tenth Plan period, within a prescribed format for memorandum of association. (Annexure-IV) It is a systematic way of recognition of STGs in the tea industry in India. The guidelines permit dual recognition: on the one hand, it allows the society to register under the respective state government Societies Act under which they can avail of state government development schemes through gram panchayats and blocks, and on the other hand, by registering with the Tea Board of India, small tea growers shall benefit through development schemes formulated by the board. Therefore, it is a wise idea for the small tea growers to assemble together under groups and access a proportionate share of scientific cultivation practices, proper pricing of green leaf, quality management, and appropriate policies befitting their needs.

### **SETTING UP OF PILOT TEA PRODUCERS' SOCIETIES (SELF-HELP GROUPS) BY THE SMALL GROWERS**

1. Each society and its members (self-help group) should be registered with Tea Board.
2. Each society should have at least 20 small grower members in its fold, and it should be registered as per the provisions of the Societies Act. A specimen copy of the registration format (memorandum of association) is appended at Annexure IV.
3. As regards recognition of eligible growers to become members of self-help group, any one of the following documentary evidences will be taken into consideration:
  - a) Land possession certificate issued by the state government
  - b) Land revenue receipt
  - c) Membership with any of the registered tea cooperative societies
4. The major activities of the society should include:
  - (i) Extension – technology and information dissemination
  - (ii) Leaf collection, storage and transportation
  - (iii) Procurement and supply of inputs such as fertilisers, plant protection chemicals, sprayers, pruning machines, etc., to the members of the society

### **FACILITIES OFFERED TO STG SOCIETIES BY THE TEA BOARD OF INDIA**

(a) For purchasing transport vehicle for carrying green leaves from fields to factory, subsidy will be given at the rate of 50 per cent of the actual cost. Normally, one such transport vehicle will be provided for every 250 registered STGs (single society or combination of societies).

(b) For setting up of leaf-collection sheds, subsidy will be provided at the rate of 100 per cent of the actual cost or Rs 30,000 per shed, whichever is lower. Normally, one leaf shed for every 50 STGs will be allowed.

(c) The actual cost will be reimbursed for purchase of plastic crates, leaf carry-bags and weighing machines as per the requirement, subject to the same being recommended by the field offices of the board.

(d) For purchase of pruning machines, subsidy will be allowed at the rate of 25 per cent of the unit cost, subject to ceiling limit of Rs 7,500 per machine. One such machine shall be allowed per

STG. In the case of STG societies (SHGs), one machine shall be allowed for every 10.12 hectares of landholding.

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*Source: Tea Plantation Development Scheme (Tenth Plan period: 2002-07)*

Tea Board of India, in its meeting held on March 29, 2006, has relaxed the norms for setting up of STG societies. The norms are as follows:

(a) Regardless of the number of members in a group, the leaf shed and vehicle requirement shall be determined on the basis of the green leaves collectively harvested by the group in a day during peak cropping period (July to September). It is proposed to allow at the rate of one leaf shed for every 2,000 kilograms of green leaf harvested in a day. Subsidy for transport vehicle shall be allowed at the rate of one vehicle for every 1,000 kilograms of green leaf harvested per day.

(b) Weighing scale shall be provided at the rate of two scales per leaf shed.

(c) The leaf-carrying bags/plastic crates shall be allowed as per the requirement of the society/group, subject to the same being justified and certified by the field officer of the board.

(d) Pruning machine shall be provided at the rate of one machine for every 10 hectares of area owned by the members of the STG society.

(e) Each individual member of the STG society should be registered with Tea Board. For registration with Tea Board, any one of the following documents should be produced by the growers:

- (i) Land possession certificate issued by the state government
- (ii) Land revenue receipt
- (iii) Membership with any of the registered tea cooperative societies

(f) Each STG society should have a clear demarcation of area of operation, and multiple memberships of individual growers with various societies shall not be allowed.

(g) Each STG society should include in its executive committee one officer each from Tea Board (of the rank of assistant development officer and above), Tea Research Association (TRA) Small Growers Advisory Cell (SGAC) and the apex society (in case of affiliated group). The committee should meet once in three months.

(h) Each STG society should have a valid bank account in its name.

(i) Item procured from the original manufacturer or from authorised distributor will only be considered for subsidy. However, for construction of leaf shed, the estimate and the drawing shall have to be physically verified by the field officer of Tea Board before settling the bill.

(j) TRA Small Growers Advisory Cell (SGAC) shall be closely associated with the STG societies for obtaining technical advice on all cultural practices. The STG society falling under the operation jurisdiction of TRA SGAC shall submit application to Tea Board with the recommendation of the concerned TRA SGAC, so that the SGAC could monitor the working of the STG society.

## **5. CREATION OF IRRIGATIONAL FACILITIES FOR STGs**

A subsidy at the rate of 25 per cent of the capital cost for procurement of irrigation equipment including cost of creation of irrigation sources, or Rs 10,000 per hectare, whichever is less, shall be paid in a lump sum after procurement of item(s)/completion of civil work for creation of irrigation source(s). There will be two inspections, viz., pre-approval inspection followed by post-installation/post-procurement inspection.

1. The items that are eligible for subsidy include sprinkler equipments, drip irrigation system, pipelines, motors, pump sets, and creation of irrigation source such as check dams and tube wells.

2. Where there is a restriction imposed by a state government for tapping of water from perennial sources such as rivers or streams, applicant (STG) tea garden should produce a 'no-objection certificate' issued by the department of irrigation of the concerned state along with the application for subsidy.

3. The cost estimates with overall specification for creation of irrigation sources such as check dams and tube wells should be obtained from a chartered engineer or concerned state irrigation department and submitted along with an application.

4. Upon execution of work, the same would be physically verified by board's field officer before disbursement of subsidy. Proper records regarding procurement of irrigation equipment and commencement and completion of creation of irrigation facilities like check dams and tube wells shall be maintained by the applicant tea estates.

5. A map duly drawn by an accredited surveyor, showing the actual extent of area being irrigated, should be produced at the time of field inspection.

6. The irrigation equipments (sprinklers and drip irrigation sets, pipelines including PVC pipes, motors, pump sets, etc.) should be purchased only from the manufacturers/suppliers enlisted with Tea Board.

## **6. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF BLFs AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH STGs AND STG SOCIETIES**

The distribution of BLFs is neither uniform in all the states, nor proportionate as per the requirement of the STGs. It was evident from the field that very few BLFs are located in Wayanad district of Kerala, and STGs in this area are compelled to sell green leaves in the neighbourhood at low prices, even while more cost is involved in transportation. The quality of green leaf also deteriorates due to the long-distance transportation. Similarly, in West Bengal, most of the STGs are concentrated in Uttar Dinajpur district, while only 12 BLFs (of 80 in the state) are operational in the district. Most of the BLFs are located in Bidhan Nagar locality of Darjeeling district, and in different parts of Jalpaiguri district. Green leaf requires to be processed within a stipulated time of a few hours, with minimum leaf damage while being carried from field to factory. Therefore, the locational aspect of BLFs is of prime concern as far as quality is concerned. The locational study of BLFs, STGs, and STG societies at an all-India level is one of the major challenges in the STG sector.

The business relationship between BLFs and STGs or STG societies is not well defined in all the states. It is more of an informal nature. On the one hand, professionals, experts and experienced individuals from the tea industry run most of the BLFs. On the other hand, STGs are new to this profession, with very less or no knowledge of the tea industry as well as government policies. Although Tea Board of India introduced the price-sharing formula in 2004, it is hardly monitored by the board at the BLF level. To assess good-quality green leaf, Tea Board is yet to introduce standard India-level quality parameters.

## **7. DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES FOR STGs AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION DURING 2004-05**

Tea development scheme includes loans and subsidies. Under subsidies, the following schemes from Tea Board of India are in operation:

- a) Plantation Development Scheme
- b) Tea Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Subsidy Scheme
- c) Human Resource Development Scheme
- d) Research and Development Scheme
- e) Price Subsidy Scheme
- f) Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme
- g) Other activities
  - i) Price-sharing formula for STGs
  - ii) Monitoring of the status of closed and sick tea gardens
  - iii) Stakeholders' conference
  - iv) Development assistance to the northeastern region

### **A) PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The objective of this scheme is productivity improvement through replanting, rejuvenation pruning and consolidation of small growers sector through infilling of vacancies, creation of irrigation facilities, special focus on small tea gardens for enhancing quality, and setting up of pilot tea producers' societies. The total outlay earmarked for this scheme for the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) is Rs 98.59 crore.

**Important actions/policy decisions** under the scheme are as follows:

- i) The existing guidelines with regard to the time of pruning in South India (April to October) under the board's rejuvenation pruning and consolidation scheme were revised based on the recommendations of United Planters' Association of South India (UPASI) Tea Research Foundation (TRF). Now, the pruning operations can be carried out from April to November in South India.
- ii) Approval was accorded to TRA for setting up a separate advisory cell to render extension services to the STGs in Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar. The advisory cell, which started functioning with effect from April 1, 2004, has been advised to help the STGs to set up STG societies (SHGs). TRA has been given a target of setting up 100 such groups per year.
- iii) It has been decided to modify the eligibility criteria for the grant of subsidy to STG societies (SHGs) as under:
  - a. For availing 100 per cent grant for setting up of leaf-collection centres and other accessories, the minimum membership requirement shall be 15 to 20 per group as against the existing requirement of 50 members per group.
  - b. For the purchase of transport vehicles, the minimum quantity of green leaf to be handled by the STG societies (SHGs) should be around five to six lakh kilograms to become eligible for the subsidy.

- c. Subsidy may be allowed for the purchase of plastic crates in lieu of leaf bags for the transport of green leaf.
- iv) Approval was accorded for inclusion of the soil-testing laboratory of M/s Hindustan Bio Fertiliser and Soil Testing Services as one of the approved laboratories for issuing soil suitability certificate for the purpose of claiming subsidy under the development schemes of Tea Board.
- v) It has been decided that after working out a basic criteria, the subsidy for new planting may be extended to STGs in the northeastern region after condoning the lapses in respect of commencement and completion of planting by the STGs, before submission of their applications to the board's offices in northeastern region.

**TABLE 5: PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING 2004-05**

Activity	Sanctioned during 2004-05			Amount disbursed (Rs, in crore)
	No.	Area (ha)	Amount (Rs, in crore)	
Re-plantation	419	3,354.72	40.02	8.46
Rejuvenation pruning and consolidation	339	1,580.07	2.64	3.04
New planting (STGs) northeast region	975	1,955.10	10.87	7.42
New planting (STGs) other than northeast region	218	685.78	1.11	1.92
Setting up of STG societies (SHGs)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others (miscellaneous)				0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>7,575.67</b>	<b>54.64</b>	<b>20.90</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

**TABLE 6: FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TENTH PLAN PERIOD**

Activity	Total Tenth Plan outlay Rs 98.59 crore			Total (in 3 years)
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
Re-plantation	13.62	9.63	8.46	31.71
Rejuvenation pruning and consolidation	5.18	3.69	3.04	11.91
New planting (STGs) northeast region	2.34	4.44	7.42	14.20
New planting (STGs) other than northeast region	4.98	0.75	1.92	7.65
Setting up of STG societies (SHGs)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others (miscellaneous)	0.019	0.005	0.06	0.084
<b>Total (% utilisation of Tenth Plan outlay)</b>	<b>26.14 (26.51)</b>	<b>18.52 (18.78)</b>	<b>20.90 (21.20)</b>	<b>65.56 (66.49)</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

## B) TEA QUALITY UPGRADATION AND PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION SUBSIDY SCHEME

This scheme has been introduced with effect from September 1, 2003, under the Tenth Plan activities of Tea Board. The prime objective of this is quality enhancement and value addition through improved processing, and ensuring production of price-competitive and speciality teas suitable for both domestic and export markets. The total outlay earmarked for this scheme for the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) is Rs 76.80 crore.

**TABLE 7: PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE TEA QUALITY UPGRADATION AND PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION SUBSIDY SCHEME DURING 2004-05**

Particulars	Sanctioned during 2004-05		Amount disbursed (Rs, in crore)
	Numbers	Amount (Rs, in crore)	
Tea processing machinery	186	12.66	12.27
Machinery for value addition	7	1.07	1.07
Quality assurance certification (ISO/HACCP/Organic Tea)	1	0.007	0.007
Quality awareness programme	1	0.04	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>13.77</b>	<b>13.39</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

**TABLE 8: FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE TEA QUALITY UPGRADATION AND PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION SUBSIDY SCHEME DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TENTH PLAN PERIOD**

Particulars	Total Tenth Plan outlay Rs 76.80 crore			Total (in 3 years) (Rs, in crore)
	2002-03 (Rs, in crore)	2003-04 (Rs, in crore)	2004-05 (Rs, in crore)	
Tea processing machinery	Nil	0.88	12.27	13.15
Machinery for value addition	Nil	Nil	1.07	1.07
Quality assurance certification (ISO/HACCP/Organic Tea)	Nil	Nil	0.007	0.007
Quality awareness programme	Nil	0.54	0.04	0.58
<b>Total (% utilisation of Tenth Plan outlay)</b>	<b>00.00*</b>	<b>1.42*</b>	<b>13.38</b>	<b>14.80 (19.0)</b>

\*The scheme was launched on September 1, 2003

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

## C) HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The objective of the scheme is to infuse professionalism in plantation management, improve labour productivity, facilitate skill improvement at all levels, from workers to managers, through extensive training, and carry out plantation labour welfare measures aimed at filling in critical gaps in terms of health and education. The total outlay earmarked for this scheme for the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) is Rs 6.01 crore, of which Rs 3.40 crore (56.65 per cent) has been utilised in the first three years of the Tenth Plan.

**TABLE 9: PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING 2004-05**

Particulars		Sanctioned during 2004-05		Amount disbursed (Rs, in crore)
		No. of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs, in crore)	
Training programmes		540	0.03	0.03
Labour welfare measures	Health	76,045	0.45	0.45
	Education	1,611	0.54	0.54
<b>Total</b>		<b>78,196</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.02</b>

*Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata*

**TABLE 10: FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TENTH PLAN PERIOD**

Particulars		Total Tenth Plan outlay Rs 6.01 crore			Total (in 3 years) (Rs, in crore)
		2002-03 (Rs, in crore)	2003-04 (Rs, in crore)	2004-05 (Rs, in crore)	
Training programmes		0.51	0.09	0.03	0.63
Labour welfare measures	Education	0.19	0.95	0.54	0.76
	Health	0.52	1.16	1.02	2.01
<b>Total (% utilisation of Tenth Plan outlay)</b>		<b>1.22</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>3.40 (56.65)</b>

*Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata*

#### **D) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The main objective of this scheme is to focus on the development needs of STGs, who account for nearly 20 per cent of India's total tea production. The activities being covered for the benefits of STGs include extending advisory services, setting up nurseries for supply of good-quality planting materials, organising study tours and workshops, and strengthening of existing offices and opening of new offices of the board for closer interface with STGs in non-traditional areas.

The important task accomplished under this scheme during this period has been the setting up of an information dissemination system [India Tea Portal ([www.indiateaportal.com](http://www.indiateaportal.com))] to provide accurate and timely information to the STGs, create an efficient marketplace for trading of Indian tea, offer a marketing channel to showcase Indian tea and provide a forum to integrate various segments of the tea industry.

The total outlay earmarked for this scheme for the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) is Rs 33 crore. The total amount disbursed under the scheme during the first three years of the Tenth Plan is Rs 27.05 crore, which is 82 per cent of the total outlay.

**TABLE 11: PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING 2004-05**

Particulars	Sanctioned during 2004-05		Amount disbursed (Rs, in crore)
	No. of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs, in crore)	
Advisory services	19,420 growers	0.73	0.73
Setting up of nurseries	3 states	0.22	0.22
Study tours and workshops	1,743 growers	0.38	0.38
Strengthening of field offices	8 offices	0.05	0.05
IT portal and electronic auctions	5 auction centres	7.14	7.14
Administrative expenses		3.04	3.04
Others (misc.)		0.87	0.87
<b>Total</b>		<b>12.43</b>	<b>12.43</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

**TABLE 12: FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TENTH PLAN PERIOD**

Activity	Total Tenth Plan outlay Rs 33.10 crore			Total (in 3 years) (Rs, in crore)
	2002-03 (Rs, in crore)	2003-04 (Rs, in crore)	2004-05 (Rs, in crore)	
Advisory services	0.20	1.00	0.73	1.93
Setting up of nurseries	0.57	0.12	0.22	0.91
Study tours and workshops	0.12	Nil	0.38	0.50
Strengthening of field offices	0.08	Nil	0.05	0.13
IT portal and electronic auctions	0.63	3.90	7.14	11.63
Administrative expenses	2.44	2.69	3.04	8.17
Others (misc.)	1.87	1.00	0.87	3.74
<b>Total (% utilisation of Tenth Plan outlay)</b>	<b>5.91 (1.11)</b>	<b>8.71 (0.82)</b>	<b>12.43 (1.11)</b>	<b>27.05 (3.04)</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

#### Important Actions/Policy Decisions during the Period

**i) Field Offices:** The board, in order to establish closer interface with the STGs, had recommended opening new field offices in the northeastern regions (viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Dibrugarh [Assam]) and Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) in a phased manner. The recommendation of the board has been forwarded to the government for approval.

**ii) IT Portal:** The portal [www.indiateaportal.com](http://www.indiateaportal.com) was launched on May 29, 2004. One of the important components of the portal was facilitation of electronic trading in tea in all the public auction centres licensed by Tea Board. During the year under report, electronic auction was introduced in the following auction centres:

**TABLE 13: INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC AUCTION SYSTEM**

Sl no.	Name of auction centre	Date of introduction of electronic auction
1	Coimbatore	29.05.04
2	Cochin (now Kochi)	12.10.04
3	Coonoor	16.11.04
4	Guwahati	21.06.04
5	Siliguri	02.05.05

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

iii) **Study Tours:** The following sanctions were accorded towards study tours:

**TABLE 14: STUDY TOURS ORGANISED BY TEA BOARD OF INDIA**

Association/Tea Board office from whom proposal was received	Number of participants	Duration of study tour	Expenditure (Rs)
AASTGA, Jorhat	15	14 days	203,150
AASTGA, Kokrajhar	14	15 days	250,000
AASTGA, Nagaon	20	13 days	171,000
AASTGA, Golaghat	15	13 days	170,750
TPA, Nagaland	19	12 days	174,310
ED, Tea Board, Coonoor	3 batches	-	600,000
ED, Tea Board, Coonoor	2 batches	-	550,750
DDTD, Tea Board, Siliguri	2 batches	-	387,240
Visit to Sri Lanka*		-	550,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,057,200</b>

[AASTGA: All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association; TPA: Tea Planters Association, Auganaba village, Nagaland]

\*A nine-member delegation comprising STGs, BLF owners, and Tea Board officials visited Sri Lanka in October 2004. The main purpose of the visit was to see the organisational set-up and functioning of the Small Tea Holders Development Authority and the implementation of price-sharing formula by the Tea Board of Sri Lanka.

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

iv) **Advisory Services:**

- Sanction was accorded for a sum of Rs 20 lakh in favour of Assam Agricultural University for extending advisory services to STGs during 2004-05.
- A sum of Rs 12.40 lakh was sanctioned in favour of the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, for extending technical assistance for reviving the tea fields of STGs in Himachal Pradesh.

- Sanction was accorded for a sum of Rs 111,844 to meet the capital and working expenses for the first two months towards publishing a monthly tea bulletin by the All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association.
- A sum of Rs 1.68 lakh was sanctioned for organising a stakeholders' conference at Agartala in Tripura.

**v) Setting up of Nurseries:** Sanction was accorded for a sum of Rs 22 lakh for raising 11 lakh plants in four nurseries in the following places:

**TABLE 15: SETTING UP OF NURSERIES FOR STGs**

Place	No. of plants	Cost (in Rs)	Nodal agency
North Tripura	1 lakh	2.67 lakh	Tea Plantation Cooperative Society Limited, Tachal
Umsning, Rongram (Meghalaya)	4 lakh + 4 lakh	27.14 lakh	Directorate of horticulture, government of Meghalaya
Nagaland	2 lakh	5.06 lakh	Directorate of agriculture, government of Nagaland

*Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata*

#### **E) PRICE SUBSIDY SCHEME**

Considering the continued fall in tea prices, the government sanctioned this scheme as an adhoc relief measure to compensate partly the price loss borne by STGs. For determining the price loss, the differential between the prescribed price-ceiling limit and the actual price that prevailed during the scheme period was taken into account. The subsidy paid, however, was limited to the actual differential or a maximum of eight rupees per kilogram of made tea, whichever was less. Since four kilograms of green leaf are required for conversion to one kilogram of made tea, the subsidy payable in absolute terms per kilogram of green leaf was fixed at two rupees.

Based on the average of prices that prevailed in the south and north Indian auctions during the past years, a ceiling limit of price at the auctions for the purpose of determining the eligibility of subsidy was fixed at Rs 65 per kilogram for north Indian teas and Rs 50 per kilogram for south Indian teas. As the prices remained lower than the cut-off price for the STGs in South India, subsidy was paid for the crop harvested by them during the four-month period of February to May 2004. However, in the case of North India, the prices were below the cut-off mark only during February and March 2004. Therefore, the subsidy was limited only for the two-month period and no payment was made for the crop harvested during April and May 2004.

For implementation of the scheme, the government sanctioned a sum of Rs 23.25 crore. Under the same, during 2004-05 Rs 20.86 crore was disbursed to 48,598 STGs. The state-wise details are shown in the following table.

**TABLE 16: DISBURSEMENT OF PRICE SUBSIDY DURING 2004-05**

Region/State	No. of growers	Amount of subsidy (in Rs)
Assam	311	854,392.0
West Bengal	166	1,133,355.5
Himachal Pradesh	103	90,475.0
South India	48,018	205,778,716.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,598</b>	<b>207,856,935.5</b>

Source: 51st Annual Report 2004-05, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

#### F) PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME

The government of India has implemented the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme (PSFS) for the benefit of STGs of tea, coffee, natural rubber and tobacco w.e.f. April 2003. STGs with operational holding up to four hectares are eligible to enrol as members under PSF Scheme. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial relief to the members when the prices of these commodities fall below a specified level. Contribution to the members' PSF savings bank account, through Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, in a given year is on the basis of categorisation of the year as boom/normal/distress year. Such categorisation is done on the basis of a price spectrum band, which is fixed and announced every year. A uniform band of 40 per cent for all the four commodities is adopted with the price spectrum band of +/- 20 per cent from the seven years' moving average of international prices of the commodities.

- When the average annual domestic price of a commodity falls below the lower band, the year for the concerned commodity is categorised as **distress year**, whereupon the Price Stabilisation Fund Trust contributes up to Rs 1,000 to the members' PSF savings bank account.
- When the average annual domestic price of a commodity is above the upper band, the year for the concerned commodity is categorised as **boom year**, whereupon the member contributes Rs 1,000 to his PSF savings bank account.
- When the average annual domestic price of a commodity remains within the lower band and the upper band, the year for the concerned commodity is categorised as **normal year**, whereupon both the Price Stabilisation Fund Trust and the member contribute Rs 500 each to the members' PSF savings bank account.

In accordance with the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme, the department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, government of India, has, on the basis of data relating to seven years' international prices of each commodity obtained from the commodity boards, fixed the price spectrum bands for the year 2005 for tea, coffee, and rubber. The price spectrum band for tea is as follows:

- Seven years' moving average of international price for tea for 2005 was Rs 63.97 per kilogram. Therefore, the lower band and the upper band are Rs 51.18 and Rs 76.76, respectively.
- The average domestic price for tea during the year 2005 was Rs 56.50 per kilogram. Since the average domestic price of tea was between the lower and upper bands, year 2005 was a **normal year** for tea.

**TABLE 17: PRICE SPECTRUM BAND FOR STGs**

Year	IP	IPMA	Lower band	Upper band	DP	Boom/normal/distress year
1999	71.47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000	68.31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	63.70	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	60.75	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	60.55	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	63.90	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	59.11	63.97	51.18	76.76	56.50	Normal year

[Notes: IP - international prices; IPMA - seven years' moving average of international prices; DP - domestic prices; lower band is (-) 20% of IPMA; upper band is (+) of IPMA; boom year - when DP is higher than upper band; normal year - when DP is between lower band and upper band; distress year - when DP is lower than lower band]

*Source: Ref. No. 3/1/2006 - Plant (C), 20th April 2006, department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, government of India*

## **GUIDELINES FOR PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME**

### **Background**

This corpus has been developed with the idea of protecting tiny STGs involved in plantations.

- Decline in international and domestic prices of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco during past few years causing distress to the primary growers
- Commissioned by the department of commerce, NCAER submitted report in September 2001 and suggested various policy options
- Department of commerce decided to set up a Price Stabilisation Fund
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gives in-principle approval in June 2002
- Committee constituted to work out modalities of implementation of the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme
- CCEA accords approval to the PSF Scheme in February 2003
- PSF Scheme launched in April 2003

### **Objectives**

- To provide financial relief to the growers when prices of these commodities fall below a specified level
- Sustained, long-term support to growers in place of adhoc interventions during crisis
- To alleviate the hardships faced by growers due to low prices and to safeguard their interests

### **Participatory Scheme**

- Principle of participation

- Contribution by grower and by government depending on normal/boom/distress year
- Small grower to enrol under the scheme by depositing entry fee of Rs 500
- Each grower to open a special PSF savings bank account with any designated bank

#### **Period of Operation**

- Ten Years – 1.4.2003 to 31.03.2012
- Scheme to be reviewed after five years
- Initially, 3.42 lakh out of a total of 12.77 lakh small growers will be covered; the most needy of small growers with operational holdings of four hectares or less will be covered at first

#### **Funding of the PSF Corpus**

- PSF corpus of Rs 500 crore
- Government's contribution – Rs 482.88 crore.
- Growers' contribution (entry fee of Rs 500 per grower) Rs 17.12 crore
- Corpus fund will be deposited in the public account of government of India
- Corpus fund will not be utilised Only Rs 40 crore per annum, i.e., interest on corpus fund at the rate of eight per cent per annum, will be utilised for the PSF Scheme

#### **Price Spectrum Band**

- A uniform band of 40 per cent for all four commodities will be adopted
- Price spectrum band will be constructed on the basis of seven years' moving average of international prices
- Lower band will be minus (-) 20 per cent and upper band will be plus (+) 20 per cent of the seven years' average of international prices
- Categorisation of year as boom/normal/distress on the basis of relationship of domestic price to price spectrum band
- Boom year – when domestic price is higher than upper band
- Normal year – when domestic price is within the lower band and the upper band
- Distress year – when domestic price is lower than the lower band

#### **Modality of Deposit in PSF Savings Bank A/C**

- In distress year, government deposits Rs 1,000 per grower. Grower is permitted to withdraw up to Rs 1,000
- In normal year, government deposits Rs 500 per grower, and each grower deposits Rs 500. No withdrawal is permitted
- In boom year, the grower deposits Rs 1,000. No withdrawal is permitted

#### **Personal Accident Insurance Cover for STGs**

The insurance covers death/disablement due to accidents caused by external violent and visible means including fire, drowning, snakebite, road/rail accidents, electrocution, and attack by wild animals. Sterilisation risk is also covered.

The exclusions are death, injury or disablement arising out of (a) intentional self-injury, suicide, insanity, and drunkenness, (b) breach of law with criminal intent, and (c) war or warlike operations and/or nuclear devices.

The scope of cover is as under:

- Death due to accident Rs 25,000
- Permanent total disablement due to accident Rs 25,000
- Loss of one eye or one limb Rs 12,500
- Loss of two limbs, one eye and one limb, or both eyes Rs 25,000

The insurance coverage is being provided by United India Insurance Company Limited.

### **Eligibility**

To enrol under this trust, an individual STG has to fulfil the following requirements:

a) Eligibility: A small and marginal grower/farmer of tea, coffee, rubber, or tobacco with an operational holding of four hectares or less is eligible to be enrolled as member under the scheme.

b) Submission of application forms: An eligible grower has to submit the following two applications to the commodity board office:

#### **i) Application for enrolment**

Each applicant has to submit an 'application for enrolment' in 'form PSF-A' (Annexure V). A proof of his holding and registration number, if any, along with his application is also required. Each commodity board will specify what documents or certificates the applicants are required to submit as proof of eligibility.

#### **ii) Application for opening of PSF savings bank account**

Each applicant has to submit an 'application for opening of bank account' in 'Form PSF-B' (Annexure VI). This application should be addressed to the branch manager of the bank in which the applicant is desirous of opening his savings bank account. However, this application is also to be submitted by the applicant to the zonal/sub-zonal or regional/sub-regional office of the commodity board. The applicant should submit two passport-size photographs and affix his signature and/or thumb impression in the designated place in the form.

#### **iii) Deposit enrolment subscription amount**

The applicant has to deposit an account payee demand draft (DD) for an amount of Rs 500 towards non-refundable enrolment subscription to PSF corpus fund. The demand draft has to be in the name of the board that has provided the PSF account.

On the fifth of every month, demand drafts deposited by members during the previous month along with the list of members are sent by the field offices to the commodity board's head office to be deposited in the PSF account of the respective board.

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*Source: Ref. No. 3/3/2003 - Plant (C), July 24, 2003, department of commerce, ministry of Commerce and industry, government of India*

**TABLE 18: TARGET COVERAGE IN PHASE I AND ACHIEVEMENT**

Name of commodity	No. of growers (in lakh)	Enrolment position (March 31, 2006)
Rubber	1.97	18,744
Coffee	0.72	11,561
Tea	0.43	14,883
Tobacco	0.30	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>45,188</b>

Source: Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, government of India

**PSF Corpus**

As on March 31, 2006, PSF corpus fund had a total of Rs 435.12 crore, out of which government's contribution was Rs 432.88 crore and growers' contribution was Rs 2.24 crore.

**TABLE 19: SHARE OF PSF CORPUS**

Parameter	2003-04 (Rs, in crore)	2004-05 (Rs, in crore)	2005-06 (Rs, in crore)
Government of India contribution	200.00	232.88	0.00
Entry fee deposit by members	1.16	0.30	0.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 201.16</b>	<b>Rs 233.18</b>	<b>Rs 0.78</b>

Source: Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, government of India

**TABLE 20: COMMODITY-WISE PROGRESS OF ENROLMENT OF GROWERS IN INDIA**  
As on March 31, 2006

State/Region	Number of growers							
	Coffee		Tea		Rubber		Total	
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
Karnataka	22,749	2,255	0	0	7,124	664	29,873	2,919
Kerala	37,305	2,874	2,250	12	165,875	16,192	205,430	19,078
Tamil Nadu	6,641	902	23,245	11,875	6,897	706	36,783	13,483
Andhra Pradesh	0	5,451	0	0	0	0	0	5,451
West Bengal	0	0	467	132	0	0	467	132
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1,380	45	0	0	1,380	45
Northeast states	5,254	0	15,277	2,819	17,565	1,129	38,096	3,948
Others	0	79	0	0	0	53	0	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,949</b>	<b>11,561</b>	<b>42,619</b>	<b>14,883</b>	<b>197,461</b>	<b>18,744</b>	<b>312,029</b>	<b>45,188</b>

[I: proposed number of growers; II: covered number of growers]

Source: Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, government of India

**TABLE 21: PROGRESS OF ENROLMENT OF STGs IN INDIA**

As on March 31, 2006

State	Initially proposed	Enrolment during 2003-04	Enrolment during 2004-05	Enrolment during 2005-06	Total since inception
Kerala	2,250	11	1	0	12
Tamil Nadu	23,245	184	11,691	0	11,875
West Bengal	467	56	76	0	132
Himachal Pradesh	1,380	34	8	3	45
Northeast	15,277	1,576	1,044	199	2,819
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,619</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>12,820</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>14,883</b>

Source: Compiled from 51st and 52nd Annual Report, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

**G) OTHER ACTIVITIES****PRICE-SHARING FORMULA FOR STGS**

The formula came into effect from 01.04.04 through a notification by Tea Board with prior approval from the government, ensuring reasonable returns to STGs for the green leaves supplied by them to the BLFs/estate factories for processing. Under this formula, the manufacturer has to share the sale proceeds with the STGs in the ratio of 40:60, based on the sale price of the manufacturer vis-à-vis average auction price for the corresponding month. In the case of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, the ratio to be adopted is 48:52. When the sale price of the manufacturer is higher than the average auction price, then the difference between selling price and auction price is to be shared in the ratio of 50:50.

While calculating the actual price for the green leaf, the outturn percentage is also taken into consideration. The outturn percentage applicable to Tamil Nadu is 23 per cent, while for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal it is 26.40 per cent, and for the rest of India it is 21.50 per cent.

**TABLE 23: REGION-SPECIFIC OUTTURN PERCENTAGE OF MADE TEA**

Sl no.	Region/State	Outturn % of tea
1	Assam	21.50
2	West Bengal	21.50
3	Nilgiris	23.00
4	Kerala	21.50
5	Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal*	26.40
6	Tripura	21.50
7	Bihar and rest of India	21.50

Source: Ref. No. 12(23)LC/2003/XII/3317 on January 19/20, 2004, Tea Board of India, Kolkata

**Guidelines in relation to price sharing between manufacturers (BLFs) and tea leaf suppliers (STGs) :**

1. Every registered manufacturer engaged in purchasing tea leaf shall maintain a register giving details of the green tea-leaf suppliers and leaves purchased on a daily basis as per enclosed format (Format I) in Annexure VII.
2. The gross sale proceeds of the manufacturer should include all tea sold during the month as decided in 'Form E' (Annexure VIII) under TMCO, except (3) below.
3. The price of tea of any manufacturer used in the manufacture of packed tea either by the manufacturer himself or by way of direct transfer to other packed tea manufacturing unit of his sister concern shall not be less than the price of tea in loose form of the said manufacturer, sold by auction and/or non-auction route. Similarly, the price of tea of any manufacturer consigned to any agent shall not be less than the price of tea in loose form of the said manufacturer sold by auction and/or non-auction route.
4. Green leaf price payable to the tea leaf suppliers shall be in accordance with the order issued vide letter no. 12(23)/LC/2003/XII/3317 dated January 20, 2004, and it has to be calculated as mentioned in para (5) and (6) below.
5. The sale proceeds is to be shared in the ratio of 60:40 when the average price realised by the manufacturer of any state of North India for all tea during the reporting month is either equal to or less than the monthly combined average auction price for CTC teas of the said state, sold in the auction centres at Kolkata, Siliguri and Guwahati. For the manufacturing units located in any state of South India, the sharing at the ratio 60:40 shall apply when the combined average auction price for CTC teas of any state of South India in the auction centres at Cochin, Coimbatore and Coonoor is higher than the sale proceeds of any manufacturer of the concerned state of South India.
6. When the price realised by the manufacturer of any state for the reporting month exceeds the monthly average auction price for the CTC teas of the concerned state, the differential between the auction average price and the price realised by the manufacturer shall be shared in the ratio 50:50. The remaining portion of the price realised shall be shared in the ratio 60:40.
7. All the estate factories, regardless of the quantum of tea leaf purchased, are bound to pay the tea leaf price per kilogram based on the gross sale proceeds as indicated in para (4).
8. The price of the green leaf payable for the month by every tea manufacturer of any state and also the combined average monthly auction price for CTC teas for the said state should be prominently displayed on the notice board of the tea factory for the information of all tea leaf suppliers. Also, one copy of the same should be sent to the local office of the Tea Board before the tenth of the following month. Every registered manufacturer shall obtain the average monthly auction price for the state in respect of the reporting month by the seventh of the following month from any of the offices of the Tea Board situated at Kolkata, Guwahati, Siliguri, Coonoor, and Cochin.
9. Pending finalisation of tea leaf price for the reporting month, the manufacturers shall pay the tea leaf suppliers an advance to the extent of 75 per cent of the price paid during the previous month.
10. The finalisation of tea leaf price payable to suppliers for the tea leaf purchased during any month by the manufacturer of any state of North India shall be based on the price realised

during the following (next) month by the said manufacturer through auction and/or non-auction route. Price for the tea leaf purchased during any month by the manufacturer of any state of South India shall be based on the price realised during the said month by the said manufacturer through auction and/or non-auction route.

11. If tea leaf is not purchased directly from tea growers, then every registered manufacturer shall obtain following information from tea leaf suppliers to maintain additional register as Sl No. 6 of Format I.

Name of the leaf supplier with address	Name of the grower with address	Quantity of leaf collected	Area under tea as per declaration of the tea grower

*Source: Ref. No. 12(23)LC/2003/XII/4124 on March 26, 2004, Tea Board of India, Kolkata*

The implementation of price-sharing formula differs in regional context from North India to South India. For North India, the monthly average price for CTC teas (from auction and non-auction route) is calculated by controller of licensing, Tea Board of India, Kolkata. It is done in the first week of every month for the previous month, and a copy of the same is circulated to Tea Board regional offices located in different parts including Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh. Besides, the Tea Board regional office at Siliguri also prepares a BLF-wise chart on monthly price paid to STGs and average price received for made teas as per price-sharing formula. The chart is put on the board's notice board. (Annexure IX)

**TABLE 24: MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICE FOR CTC TEAS IN NORTH INDIA**

Sl no.	State	Price (in Rs/kilogram) during September 2006
1	Assam	74.50
2	West Bengal	67.98
3	Tripura	59.42
4	Arunachal Pradesh	70.36

*Source: Tea Board regional office, Siliguri, West Bengal*

Similarly, for South India, the monthly average price for CTC teas (from auction and non-auction routes) is calculated by joint controller of licensing, Tea Board of India, Cochin. It is done in the first week of every month for the previous month, and a copy of the same is circulated to Tea Board's regional offices located in different parts of South India including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

**TABLE 25: STATE -WISE AUCTION FIGURES DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2007 IN SOUTH INDIA**

State	Auction centre	CTC leaf		CTC dust		Combined total	
		Quantity (in kilogram)	Avg. price (in Rs)	Quantity (in kilogram)	Avg. price (in Rs)	Quantity (in kilogram)	Avg. price (in Rs)
Kerala	Coonor	94,494.00	50.32	16,077.10	50.30	110,571.10	50.32
	Cochin	143,759.00	47.75	1,488,516.70	60.10	1,632,275.70	59.02
	Coimbatore	79,413.50	49.20	236,441.00	55.26	315,854.50	53.73
	<b>State total</b>	<b>317,666.50</b>	<b>48.88</b>	<b>1,741,034.80</b>	<b>59.35</b>	<b>2,058,701.30</b>	<b>57.74</b>
Tamil Nadu	Coonor	2,861,233.20	46.59	1,188,792.00	47.70	4,050,025.20	46.91
	Cochin	29,891.00	48.55	2,199,495.90	58.92	2,229,386.90	58.78
	Coimbatore	823,890.50	46.31	927,118.60	51.46	1,751,009.10	49.04
	<b>State total</b>	<b>3,715,014.70</b>	<b>46.54</b>	<b>4,315,406.50</b>	<b>54.23</b>	<b>8,030,421.20</b>	<b>50.67</b>
Karnataka	Coonor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Cochin	0.00	0.00	47,848.00	57.21	47,848.00	57.21
	Coimbatore	5,064.00	50.14	27,330.50	54.69	32,394.50	53.98
	<b>State total</b>	<b>5,064.00</b>	<b>50.14</b>	<b>75,178.50</b>	<b>56.30</b>	<b>802,42.50</b>	<b>55.91</b>
<b>South India total</b>		<b>4,037,745.20</b>	<b>46.73</b>	<b>6,131,619.80</b>	<b>55.71</b>	<b>10,169,365.00</b>	<b>52.14</b>

*Source: Joint controller of licensing, Tea Board of India, Cochin*

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

Tea Board of India sometimes introduces region-specific, target-oriented programmes. Two such programmes – Quality Upgradation Programme and Pruning Scheme for STGs in Nilgiris through UPASI-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), are discussed below.

### A) QUALITY UPGRADATION PROGRAMME

The quality upgradation programme (QUP) was started in the year 2000 in Nilgiris under UPASI-KVK. Village-level campaign for quality tea procurement and service centre, technical training, market support, formation of women SHGs for leaf trade, and factory-level demonstration has had significant success in Nilgiris.

**TABLE 26: NUMBER OF VILLAGE CAMPAIGNS AND BENEFICIARIES**

Year	Field level		Factory level
	Number of campaigns	Number of beneficiaries	Number of factory experiments
2000-01	125	18,423	20
2001-02	78	20,008	20
2002-03	45	5,161	20
2003-04*	33	4,324	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>47,916</b>	<b>73</b>

\*As of December 2003

Source: UPASI-KVK, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu

### B) PRUNING SCHEME

Towards the end of 2006, Tea Board of India launched a pruning subsidy scheme for STGs in Nilgiris. Under the scheme, an STG is paid Rs 1,300 per acre for pruning his tea fields. In addition, an individual STG receives technical guidance from the field staff appointed under quality upgradation programme.

### C) EDUCATIONAL STIPEND SCHEME FOR WARDS OF STGS

The scheme is extended to the STGs holding tea area up to 10.12 hectares. The Tea Board of India has decided to extend its help by way of granting educational stipends to the wards/dependents of STGs. (Application Form in Annexure X)

**Nature of Stipend:** The board may grant necessary stipends for the wards of STGs to encourage them for further education in professional courses including engineering, medicine, management and computer sciences. Under this scheme, tuition fees and hostel charges are paid on the basis of actuality subject to certain ceilings.

#### Eligibility:

- (i) The children of STGs who secure at least 75 per cent of marks in class XII are eligible for stipend if the total family income of the concerned STG does not exceed Rs 10,000 per month (income certificate is to be produced from the state revenue authorities).

- (ii) Maximum 2 (two) children (including legally adopted one) of the STGs having a total family income up to Rs 10,000 per month can be granted stipend.
- (iii) An orphan adopted by STG and dependent on him/her can also be granted a stipend, provided the family income of the STG does not exceed Rs 10,000 per month.
- (iv) A brother or a sister of STG, if wholly dependent upon him/her, is eligible for a stipend provided total family income of the STG does not exceed Rs 10000 per month.
- (v) Ordinarily, students in receipt of free tuition or any other scholarship/stipend from government or other sources are not entitled to stipend under this scheme. But in cases where such scholarship/stipend does not provide for hostel charges, a grant representing the balance may be sanctioned under this scheme or 2/3rd of hostel charge, whichever is lower.

**Conditions and Tenability of Stipend:**

- (i) All stipends awarded under this scheme are tenable only for one academic session for pursuing regular full-time courses in recognised institutions in India. At the end of each academic session, a candidate has to make a fresh application with the annual progress report certified by the head of the institution where the student was studying in the previous session.
- (ii) A stipend is tenable on the usual conditions of good conduct and satisfactory progress.

## **9. LOCAL-LEVEL POLICIES BETWEEN REGIONAL TEA BOARD OFFICES, BLFs AND STGs**

There is a complete absence of policies under which BLFs and STGs/STG societies should be linked in business terms and conditions. However, over time, some directions have been set informally, and regional Tea Board offices have taken some initiatives for better trade and business relations development between BLFs and STGs.

### **Case Study I**

The deputy director of tea development, Tea Board of India, Siliguri, had presided over a meeting on January 4, 2006, in connection with the minimum quality parameters for supply and procurement of green leaf. The STGs of North Bengal were represented by United Forum of Small Tea Growers' Associations and North Bengal Small Tea Planters' Association, while the BLFs of North Bengal were represented by North Bengal Tea Producers' Association.

### **Joint Decisions:**

- i) The representatives of BLFs and STG associations informed that the compliance level with regard to supply and procurement of green leaf should be minimum 30 per cent fine leaf.
  - ii) All the BLFs would display in a prominent place in the factory the minimum quality of green leaf to be acceptable as per the decision already taken.
  - iii) Set up monitoring committees for overseeing the compliance of the decision taken in the meeting, and accordingly, district-wise monitoring committees were formed in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Uttar Dinajpur with the representatives of BLFs and STG associations.
  - iv) To review the overall progress, a meeting would be held at Tea Board, Siliguri on second Tuesday of every month with representatives of BLFs and STG associations. In case the second Tuesday happens to be a holiday, the meeting would be held on the next working day.
  - v) The BLFs and STG associations would ensure wide publicity of the decisions taken in the meeting among their members in all the districts in North Bengal with BLF and STG concentration.
  - vi) With a view to ensure quality of raw material, no factory would receive raw material from STGs/suppliers after 8 p.m.
- 

*Source: Ref. No. 3(34)/SLG/2001/1716 dated January 6, 2006, Tea Board regional office, Siliguri, West Bengal*

### **Case Study II**

Tea Board of India, Coonoor, monitors the implementation of price-sharing formula through inspectors. There were two inspection reports: one was prepared by Shri G. Jankiram for the months of May and June 2006, and the other was compiled by Shri C.V. Krishnan for the month of July 2006. The inspection report consists of the following format

Name of the factory	Green leaf used (in kg)	Made tea (in kg)	Tea waste accrued (in kg)	Green leaf price (in Rs)	Average sale price (in Rs)	State average (in Rs)	PSF status

*Source: Ref. No. 3(14)/PSF/CHN/2006 dated July 28, 2006, Tea Board of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu*

## 10. CESS ON GREEN LEAF

In West Bengal, the STGs are paying cess to the government at the rate of 12 paise per kilogram of green leaf. This kind of taxation only exists in West Bengal. In states like Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, these kind of taxes are not collected from STGs. After an interaction with Bijoy Gopal Chakraborty, convenor of United Forum of Small Tea Growers' Associations, it was established that this is a discouraging factor for STGs in the region.

## 11. RESEARCH INSTITUTES, TECHNICAL BACKUP AND EXTENSION SERVICES TO STGs

- TRA in Assam and West Bengal provides technical training to STGs with the help of STG associations. Though they organise one-day training at different venues with STG concentration, it seems inadequate from the growers' point of view.
- TRA has set up a 'small growers advisory cell' at Jorhat in Assam and at Bengdubi in West Bengal to facilitate STGs.
- The department of tea husbandry and technology in Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, also provides technical training to STGs with assistance from Tea Board of India.
- UPASI-KVK implements the 'quality upgradation programme' of Tea Board of India. They also initiated the pruning subsidy scheme for STGs in Nilgiris.

## 12. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Land possession certificate is given by village administrative officer in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, while district land reform officer provides 'no-objection certificate' for tea cultivation in West Bengal.

In the case of Assam, the prevalence of *tauzi* and *myadi* land is a problem. (*Myadi* land is owned by the STGs, while *tauzi* land ownership remains with government and the cultivator pays annual tax. In both the cases, final land documents are to be provided by the district commissioner of the said district.)

2. Individual registration of STGs with the Tea Board of India is very low in all the four states. The STGs in the tea industry are not traceable. There is an urgent need for a '**census for STGs in India**' to know the actual number of STGs and their plantation area, production level, and socio-economic condition.

3. STG society registration is also low. Only a few STGs in the four states covered in this study have started organising themselves as societies. For better implementation of new policies, more STG societies should be formed in all the states.

4. The spatial distribution of BLFs is not uniform in all the states/districts. Since it is a known fact that green leaf quality deteriorates if it is carried for long hours, proper planning for redistribution and locational aspects of BLFs should be considered.
5. Business linkage between BLFs and STGs is arbitrary. Tea Board of India should specify guidelines and terms and conditions for the same.
6. The board should evolve regulatory measures for BLFs to share cost of production data and information. The data should be shared and disseminated as is done on a monthly basis by INDCO factories.
7. Tea Board of India should use the 'INDCO factories format' for assessing cost of production in BLFs in India. To arrive at the cost of production in BLFs in India, uniform methodology and parameters need to be followed.
8. Policy formation is required for the participation of STGs in green-leaf price determination and fixation, so that the price is shared by the BLFs with the STGs and STG societies.
9. E-form submissions and monitoring should be a regular activity of Tea Board of India, and the information should be shared with individual STGs, STG societies, associations and BLFs. BLF-wise green leaf price and state average of CTC tea price should be notified monthly to STG societies/associations/other stakeholders by Tea Board of India.
10. There should be a common monitoring format for BLFs. Tea Board of India, Coonoor, uses a comprehensive format (in the text as case study II), and the same should be used in all Tea Board offices for monthly monitoring.
11. The monthly notification of state average price of CTC teas is done at two offices: controller of licensing, Tea Board of India, Kolkata, for North India (Table 24), and joint controller of licensing, Tea Board of India, Cochin, for South India (Table 25). The Cochin office provides a more detailed picture compared to the Kolkata office, and seems to provide a better understanding of the market. Therefore, the Kolkata office should also notify in the same manner and learn from its counterpart in South India.
12. Many of the Tea Board officials as well as members of associations and STG societies are not well aware of the guidelines of price-sharing formula. For its effective implementation, Tea Board of India should impart manpower training to the members of STG societies/associations/other stakeholders.
13. Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme should be re-announced for the STGs by the respective commodity boards, and STGs with up to 25 acres of land should be covered under this for the larger interest of the sector. It is also linked with individual registration of STGs in different states. Increase in the membership of the fund will also increase the transparency in the small-scale sector.
14. Extension services for STGs are very weak, and should be strengthened in the STG areas or localities. Technical and scientific training on tea cultivation with field demonstration should be imparted through STG societies. As of now, only one-day trainings are imparted by TRA/UPASI to STGs. There should be short-term training for STG society members and individual STGs.
15. Policy for STG societies should focus on society management, technical knowledge dissemination among members, acquiring market information, and active business linkage between BLFs and STG societies.

16. There is an absence of optimum policy coverage for social security of STGs and workers at all-India level.
17. An innovative market information and business literacy programme on green leaf trading in general and future trading for tea processing in particular is to be launched. This could be initiated at the STG and STG society level.
18. All the schemes and policies of Tea Board of India related to STGs should be published in English as well as local languages in different states for larger circulation and better implementation.
19. All the application forms of Tea Board schemes should be drafted in local language in bracket along with English for better understanding by STGs. (Appendices: Annexure I to X)
20. Development schemes of the Tea Board of India are inadequate in nature. Presently, Tea Board offers: a) plantation subsidy to STGs under plantation development scheme; b) setting up of nurseries, c) study tours, and d) advisory services under research and development scheme. Unfortunately, very few STGs could avail of the plantation subsidy, as a majority of them are not registered with the Tea Board.
21. Under the Tenth Plan period (2002-07), Tea Board introduced Tea Plantation Development Scheme for setting up STG societies. During the first three years of the plan period, 'nil' amount is spent on such initiatives. (Table 5 and Table 6)
22. The regulation of the tea industry, as legislated in the Tea Act, 1953, gives an adequate framework for regulating the industry. The board should register various stakeholders for purposes of information and monitoring their activities to ensure a level playing ground for all.
23. Registered STG associations should monitor the industry and protect the smallholders' interests. They should do this with the help of Tea Board of India. This demands urgent clarification as to who is a genuine representative of STGs, and the Tea Board should advise on this.

### **13. CONCLUSIONS**

From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that the existing policies are inadequate for proper development of STGs in India. Secondly, whatever is available is not implemented in an effective manner. A comprehensive policy outline is of the utmost necessity for the survival of STGs in India. Tea Board of India should enumerate a '**census for STGs in India**' for creating a national database of acreage under STGs, production level, employment pattern, and locational aspects of BLFs and STGs for balanced development and growth of this unorganised sector in the tea industry.

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*Unpublished Data* collected from Department of Horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu, Ooty, Nilgiris.

*Unpublished Data* collected from Directorate of Tea Development, Tea Board of India, Kolkata.

# 15. APPENDICES

## ANNEXURE I LANDHOLDING CERTIFICATE

Note: (All particulars should be entered by the V.A.O./R.I. in his own handwriting and corrections, if any should be attested by him)

### PARTICULARS OF LAND (TEA AND OTHER CROP)

Owned by Shri/Smt.....  
Son/Daughter/Wife of Shri/Smt.....  
.....Village.....  
Taluk (Block)..... District.

1. Name of the Revenue Village:
2. All survey numbers of the Total Area owned by the applicant/applicants (including tea and other crops):
3. Total area (including Tea and other crops) owned by the applicant/applicants:
4. Area planted with tea with survey numbers (owned by the applicant/applicants):

Survey No.	Area
------------	------
5. Area proposed to be replanted with survey numbers (relating to current application):

Survey No.	Area
------------	------
6. Patta number as stated in the land revenue receipt of the tea area proposed to be replanted:

CERTIFIED

Place:

Date:

Signature  
Name of the Village Administrative Officer/  
Revenue Inspector in capital letters with seal

**ANNEXURE II**

**SURVEY MAP**

(To be submitted in quadruplicate)

FIELD NUMBER WITH SUBDIVISION.....

Total Area.....

---

Scale.....

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Area earmarked for new plantation/replanting/rejuvenation and infilling.

Location: Area applied for subsidy is near.....hamlet,  
Certified that the coloured portion measuring.....Ha..... is owned by  
Shri/Smt.....Son/daughter/wife  
of.....

Signature of the Applicant

Station:

Date:

Name and Signature of V.A.O

.....Village

.....Taluk (Block)

.....District

Note: 1. Side Boundaries with name of the adjacent owners should be furnished.

2. Directions should be indicated such as North, South, West, East.

3. Separate survey maps as per the pro forma for different plots duly signed by the applicant and Certified by V.A.O. with seal should be submitted.

**ANNEXURE III**  
**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF UNREGISTERED TEA AREA WITH**  
**TEA BOARD OF INDIA:**

1. Name of the applicant/s:
2. Postal Address (with pin code number):
3. Total area (in ha) of land owned and proposed to be registered:
4. Location – Survey no., village, taluk (block) and district wherein the proposed area situated (NOC from Revenue Officer/Land Possession Certificate from Village Administrative Officer):
5. Attach attested or notarised copies of documents such as Sale Deed, Khatian, Patta, Chitta Extract, Tax/Rent Receipt, etc.:
6. The name and address of the seller from whom the land in question purchased:
7. Attach a soil analysis report from UPASI/TRA or Govt. recognised institution certifying that the soil is suitable for tea cultivation:
8. Area proposed to be planted with tea (in ha):
9. Please attach a survey map duly drawn by an approved surveyor specially showing the location of the land and the areas proposed to be planted with tea in distinct colour duly countersigned by the Revenue Officer/Village Administrative Officer and signed by the applicant on the face of the map:
10. In case the property/land in which new tea planting is proposed to be undertaken is under joint possessionhip more than one person, please submit an affidavit on stamp paper valued for Rs.10/- by the Joint Owners before the concern Revenue Officer/Village Administrative Officer and duly certified by them:
11. Attach a declaration to the effect that you do not own any tea area/estate already registered with Tea Board. If you have any estate/tea area already registered with Tea Board, please mention the registration number:

Date:

Signature of the Applicant

## ANNEXURE IV

### DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

#### 1. NAME OF THE SOCIETY:

The Producers' Society shall be

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of the place)  
Tea producers' Society and its registered address shall be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The activities of the Society shall be confined to the \_\_\_\_\_  
Panchayat/Block areas in the \_\_\_\_\_ village \_\_\_\_\_  
Taluk of \_\_\_\_\_  
District in \_\_\_\_\_ State.

#### 2. OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY:

The society shall be a no-profit-making institution aimed at imparting technical & scientific knowledge to the members for the general improvement of the area and in particular for the economic and social welfare of the small farmers of tea.

Without prejudice to the generality of the above object, the following shall be the aims and purposes of the Society:

- a) To disseminate knowledge on the latest technology in cultivation of tea planting including plucking, collection of green leaf from member storage and transportation to a tea manufacturing unit for processing.
- b) To assist in procurement and supply of inputs such as fertilizers, place protection chemicals, sprayers, pruning machines etc. to the members and its use in scientific manner.
- c) To act as an agent of the concerned State Government and of the Tea Board for implementing extension programmes and development activities.
- d) To ensure maximum productivity and returns to the small farmers serving as a connecting link between the farmers and the tea manufacturing unit.
- e) To arrange for soil analysis and other tests aimed at maximization of tea utility value of inputs in the tea holdings and thus assist in cost reduction in their operations.
- f) To organize other welfare and educational programmes for the benefit of the members.

- g) To keep liaison with the Tea Board, Tea Research Institutes and Agricultural Universities for facilitating dissemination of technical guidance on agricultural practices to its members.
- h) To keep liaison with Tea Board and the Processing Factories for processing and marketing of tea.
- i) To raise necessary funds by way of admission fees, subscription from members, donations, loans and advances from members, public, bank and other financial institutions, co-operative societies, Tea Board and Government.
- j) To maintain a separate account in a nationalized bank for transacting all the receipt and payments of the society.
- k) To do such other things including acquisition of immovable and movable properties as are incidental and conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

### **3. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION:**

The names, address and occupations of the members of the first Executive Committee to whom, by the rules and regulations of the Society, the management of the affairs of the society are entrusted.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIETY

### **4. MEMBERSHIP:**

The membership of the society is restricted to the Tea growers in the area of operation and who agree to adopt scientific cultivation practices of tea and sell green leaves through the Society for manufacture in a tea processing unit and/or agree to market the tea, in the form, as prescribed by the society, subject to the following conditions:

- i) He/She should have tea plantation which is registered with Tea Board.
- ii) He/She should be agreeable to enroll as a member of the Society.
- iii) He/She should pay the prescribed admission fee and the subscriptions.
- iv) He/She should abide by the rules and regulations of the society and should not be engaged in any activities detrimental to objective of the society or in competition with it.
- v) He/She should agree to maintain leaf standard as specified by the Society and regularly supply the green tea leaves to the leaf collection centers of the Society for transportation of tea leaves to the tea manufacturing unit. Under no circumstances, the green leaves should be sold to any outside sources.

A member will lose his membership if he disqualifies himself on any of the above rounds. He can also retire or resign from the society by giving notice and the society may accept such request provided he has no dues or liabilities to the society and he is not in custody of any property or valuables of the society.

Every person who desires to become a member shall apply in the prescribed form along with an admission fee of Rs. .... and an annual subscription of Rs. .... The annual subscription shall be paid by the members regularly.

## **5. FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY:**

The funds of the society shall be raised by way of

1. Admission fee
2. Annual Subscription
3. Donations, loans, and advances from the members
4. Donations, loans, subsidies and advances from non-members, banks and other financial institutions, co-operative societies, Tea Board and Government.

## **6. GENERAL BODY:**

The society shall convene the first General Body meeting of all the members within a period of 3 months from the date of registration and thereafter annually but not later than one month after the end of the accounting year. The quorum for the general body meeting shall be 1/3 of the eligible members in the membership roll of the society or twenty whichever is less.

The Executive committee on its own initiative or on written request from the eligible members shall convene a special general body meeting to **transact special or urgent business**.

## **7. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GENERAL BODY:**

- a) The ultimate authority of the society vests in the general body. General Body will decide by simple majority all matters not specifically delegated to the Executive Committee under these rules. Whenever it shall appear to the Executive committee that it is advisable to alter, extend or abridge in particular the purpose/purposes for which the society has been established or to amalgamate the society either wholly/partially with any other society, the Executive Committee shall present the proposal for the same with the concurrence of the Tea Board to the members of the society and convene a special meeting for the consideration thereof by the General Body, by giving 10 days prior notice regarding the proposed amendment. Such amendments as are agreed to by 3/5 of the members shall be carried into effect.
- b) The General Body shall in its first meeting elect from among themselves the President of the Society. He in turn will immediately thereafter conduct the election of six members of the Executive Committee. The President will hold office for 3 years and two members of the Executive Committee will retire every year. The members who are to retire at the end of 1st year and 2nd year respectively will be chosen by drawing of lots. But for this all elected members of the Executive Committee will hold office for a period of 3 years. There is no bar for re-election of retiring member. Only the members who have agreed to undertaking tea plantation in scientific manner and supply standard quality of green leaves of their holdings regularly to the Society collection centres will be

entitled to vote and to stand for election from the 2nd year. The annual report and the annual accounts of the society duly approved by the Executive Committee and audited by the auditor appointed by the Executive Committee in the case of first year accounts and subsequent years by the auditor appointed by the annual General Body shall be presented to the general body for consideration and approval. The General Body shall have the power to approve the budget presented by the Executive committee with or without modification. It shall also lay down policy guidelines, future activities of the society and suggestions for improving the internal management including the disciplinary matters. The general body of the Society may authorize or delegate the powers in these respects including the preparation of necessary bye-laws, rules and regulations for the proper management of its affairs wherever required to the President / Executive committee.

- c) The General Body shall appoint an Auditor for the Society and the period of appointment shall be for a year except in the case of first year.

## **8. MANAGEMENT:**

- ❑ The management of the society shall vest in the Executive Committee consisting of the President and 6 persons elected by the general body from among its members. Tea Board will have the right to nominate one of its officers to the Executive committee if it so desires.
- ❑ The Committee shall prepare a list of members and keep it open at the office of the society during the office hours. It shall also keep a copy of Societies Registration Act and Rules, Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations, Bye-Laws, if any, for the inspection of the same by the members. The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the society in accordance with the objectives and policies defined and the rules and regulations as amended from time to time. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be 4 including the President/Vice-President. The committee shall meet as often as required but at least once in a month. The Committee may invite representatives of the Tea Board, Financing Institutions, Processing Society, Co-operative Tea Marketing Society of the area and other specialists as special invitees to the meetings. The Executive Committee shall elect from among the elected members a Vice President. The services of the President and vice President are gratuitous.
- ❑ Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote and in case of equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.
- ❑ An Executive Committee member may resign at any time, but such resignation shall take effect only on the date on which it is accepted by the Committee.
- ❑ A member of the Executive Committee, if absents himself from four consecutive meetings of the Committee, without the prior permission of the President shall cease to be a member of the Committee. Interim vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled in by co-option by the President from among the members of the society.

## **9. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- The property of the society shall be managed by the President and he shall take care of the properties and use the funds of the society for carrying out the objects of the society in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to the President as may be required for the day-to-day functioning of the society.

#### **10. THE COMMITTEE SHALL:**

1. Be responsible to file with the Registrar all statements, returns, and lists of the members of the Society and the governing body and such other information as may be required under the Act and Rules.
2. Arrange/cause to be arranged the first general body meeting within 3 months of its registration of the society and subsequent annual meeting in time.
3. Elect the office bearers subsequently at Annual General Meeting from among the elected members, as provided herein.
4. Present to the general body the annual report and also the annual accounts duly audited for the consideration and approval of the general body.
5. Have the powers to admit members as per the rules.
6. Take decisions on any contract to be entered into on behalf of the Society with the Processing Institutions or Co-operative Societies or Financial Institution or Tea Board for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Society and authorize signatories to such contract.
7. Arrange for the purchase and sale of agricultural items required for the members as well as for marketing of tea produced by them through the processing society.
8. Scrutinize the annual budget of the society and recommend the same to general body for its approval.
9. Sanction the expenditure for the management of the society within the approved budget
10. Take decision to own or hire or obtain on lease buildings, and other properties for storing and marketing of agricultural inputs and latex and tea scrap.
11. Organize agricultural development/extension programme for the benefit of the growers.
12. Approve the appointment and removal of a staff and commission agent and decide their remuneration/rate of commission and other terms and conditions of service within the limit of sanctioned budget with the concurrence of the Tea Board.
13. Scrutinize and approve the monthly receipts and disbursement statements.
14. Make sub rules/bye-laws for the day-to-day operation of the society and act according to such rules. The Executive Committee may, however, get the sub rules/bye-laws approved/ratified by the general body.
15. Do such acts and transact such other business as are consistent with the object of the Society and as may be incidental to the administration of the Society.
16. Prepare/cause to prepare, annually, in such forms as may be specified by the Registrar (a) a statement showing the receipts and disbursements for the year (b) income and expenditure account (c) a balance sheet (d) such other statements as may be required.
17. Punish by way of fine, the members who try to add other materials to the latex they supply.

The Executive Committee may, while ensuring the operations of the society in accordance with the objectives, generate adequate funds from the internal source. It may

resort to external source of funds on dire necessity with the approval of Tea Board for achieving the goals set by the society.

The Executive Committee shall authorize the President, Vice-President and another Committee member to open and operate a Bank Account with any Nationalised or Co-operative Bank in the area on behalf of the society. The account shall be jointly operated by two such persons. Funds not required for immediate disbursement shall be deposited in the blank.

#### **11. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT:**

The President shall:

- a) Preside over all meetings of the general body and the Executive Committee of the society. In the case of equal division of votes, he shall exercise a casting vote.
- b) Have the power to sanction contingency expenditure subject to provisions in the approved budget. All expenditure made in this manner shall be placed before the next executive committee for ratification/approval.
- c) Be responsible for the management and overall supervision of the activities of the Society.
- d) Have the power to take disciplinary action against the commission agents of the society.
- e) Be responsible to present before Executive Committee all policy matters with his recommendation for approval and also to present the same before General Body with the recommendation/approval of the Committee.
- f) Have necessary authority to correspond with general public, Government Department, other Institutions, on behalf of the Society.
- g) Keep liaison with the Tea Board, Processing co-operative society and financial institutions and ensure smooth functioning of the Society.
- h) Have such other powers as may be delegated to him by the Executive committee, so that all the objectives of the society are achieved as per policies framed by the Executive Committee.
- i) Have the power to negotiate with the tea processing units to fix the price of green leaves supplied to a tea processing unit in accordance with the price trend.

#### **12. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT:**

The Vice-President shall have all the powers and duties of the President in the absence of the latter.

#### **13. FURTHER DELEGATION:**

The President may also delegate such of the powers and duties assigned to him to any other Committee Member with due approval of the Executive Committee.

#### **14. MISCELLANEOUS:**

- a) For the purpose of improving the financial position and future development of the Society, a compulsory recovery at the rate of 25 (twenty-five) paise per kg. Green leaf sold through the Society shall be made and the amount so recovered shall be credited to a separate

Development Fund Account. Decisions about utilization of this fund are to be taken with the approval of the Tea Board only.

b) The society may sue or be sued in the name of its President.

c) For all matters not specifically provided in these rules, the Society may frame any rules and regulations from time to time consistent with the Memorandum of Association as amended from time to time and in accordance with the Societies Registration Act and Rules. The provisions under the Societies Registration Act and Rules shall govern in all such matters which are not specifically provided for in the rules and regulations of the Society and so specified in the rules and regulations but are inconsistent with provisions under the Act and Rules.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**ANNEXURE V**  
**PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME [FORM-PSF-A]**  
**APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT OF GROWER AS**  
**MEMBER IN THE PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME**

To  
The \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Board  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sir,

I wish to enrol as a Grower Member in the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme introduced by the Government of India. My details are as under:

1. Name :
  2. Father's Name :
  3. Full Address :
  4. Regn. No. with the Board as a grower (TBRG No.) :
- Particulars of holdings of agricultural land (in hectares)
5. a- Name of the village, taluka/mandal, district & state where the land is situated. :
  - b- Survey No.
  - c- Holding of Agri. Land (hect.)
  6. Name & Address of the Bank with Account No. :
  7. Remarks :
  8. Details of Enrolment Subscription of Rs.500/- by D.D. No. -- / Bank :

I do solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above stated information is true, complete and correct. Further, I have read, understood and hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme.

Signature of the applicant

Place :

Date :

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

WHETHER ELIGIBLE FOR JOINING PSF SCHEME - YES / NO  
IF YES, ENROLMENT NO.

SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED OFFICIAL  
OF COMMODITY BOARD

**ANNEXURE VI**  
**PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME [FORM-PSF-B]**  
**APPLICATION FOR OPENING OF SAVINGS BANK**  
**ACCOUNT UNDER PRICE STABILISATION FUND SCHEME**

To

The Manager  
(Name of the Branch)  
(Name of the Bank)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sir

I wish to apply for opening of a Savings Bank account in your branch under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. My details are as under:

1. Name :
2. Father's Name :
3. Date of Birth :
4. Address :
5. Telephone No. :
6. Registration No. with the Commodity Board :
7. Name and address of Nominee :
8. Relationship with Nominee :
9. Details of existing bank account, if any :

I have been enrolled as a member under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme by the \_\_\_\_\_ Board (Name of the Commodity Board).

I have read, understood and hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. Further all the particulars and information given above are true, correct, complete and up-to-date in all respect.

SIGNATURE OF THE APPLICANT

Note: Two passport-size photographs with signature/thumb impression

Certificate by the \_\_\_\_\_ Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that Shri / Smt. \_\_\_\_\_ has been enrolled as a member under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme and he / she has paid the Enrolment Subscription amount. He / she may be allowed to open a bank account under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme in your branch.

SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED OFFICIAL WITH SEAL

**ANNEXURE VII  
FORMAT I**

(Form of Register to be maintained by the manufacturer purchasing green tea leaf)

1. Form for the Month of.....of the year.....

2. Tea Board's Registration No. under TMCO:

3. Particulars of green leaf procured from other gardens:

Sl. No.	Name of the garden	Detailed address	Regn. No. of the garden granted by Tea Board, if any	Date of procurement	Quantity procured in Kg

4. Particulars of green tea leaf purchased from green tea leaf supplier:

Date of Purchase	Date and time of Arrival of tea leaf at the factory	Quantity purchased in Kgs	Name of supplier	Address of supplier	Tea Board Regn. No. of Supplier, if any

5. Amount disbursed towards purchase of green tea leaf:

Sl. No.	Name of Supplier	Date of Payment	Amount paid in Rs.

**ANNEXURE VIII**

**‘FORM-E’ UNDER TEA (MARKETING) CONTROL ORDER, 2003**

(Monthly return to be submitted by the registered manufacturers other than the Instant tea manufacturers)

1. Name of the Manufacturing Unit:
2. Address:
3. Name of the Co. owning the Mfg. Unit:
4. Tea Board’s Regn. No. under TMCO:
5. Plantation District:
6. State:
7. Central Excise Control Code/Regn. No.:
8. Central Excise Zone:
9. Tea Waste Lic. No. under TMCO:
10. Name of Producer Assocn. Member of and Membership No., if any, :
11. Whether Estate or Bought-Leaf (including Co-operative) Factory :
12. Opening Stock of Made Tea (in Kgs) lying in the factory:

Type of Tea					
	C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green	Organic	Total
Loose tea					
Packet tea					

13. Green leaf particulars (figures in Kgs) during the month:

Quantity sourced from own garden	Quantity purchased from outside	Total quantity procured	Quantity used for manufacture of tea

14. Average leaf price per kg., paid for the month (in respect of Bought-leaf):
15. Quantity of teas (in Th. Kgs.) manufactured during the month (out of total green leaves which is inclusive of garden own leaves as well as purchased leaves):

During Month.....				(January to.....)			
C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green	Total	C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green	Total

16. Quantity of value added tea in consumer packs (Kgs) produced out of total manufactured tea indicated in column 15 during the month:

During Month.....				(January to.....)			
C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green	Total	C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green	Total

17. Particulars of Tea Waste (figures in Kgs):

Opening balance	Quantity generated during the month	Quantity disposed during the month	Closing balance

18. Excise Duty paid:

Rate per Kg                      Total amount paid

19. Cess paid under Tea Act, 1953:

Rate per Kg                      Total amount paid

20. Sale of un-denatured Tea Waste (figures in Kgs):

Quantity sold	Date	Tea Board Authority, letter number and date	Names of the buyers and their Tea Waste License Number

21. Denaturing of Tea Waste (figures in Kgs):

Quantity denatured	Date	Tea Board Authority, letter number and date	Name and Designation of official before whom performed

22. Sale of denatured Tea Waste (figures in Kgs):

Quantity sold	Date	Names of the buyers

23. Conversion of Tea Waste as Compost (figures in Kgs):

Quantity	Date	Tea Board Authority, letter number and date	Name and Designation of official before whom performed

24. Destruction of Tea Waste (figures in Kgs):

Quantity	Date	Tea Board Authority, letter number and date	Name and Designation of official before whom performed

25. Sales during the month:

(A) Through Auction:

(i) Quantity sold

Name of the auction centre	Quantity sold (in Kgs)								
	C.T.C.		Orthodox		Darjeeling		Green Tea	Others (specify)	Total
	Leaf	Dust	Leaf	Dust	Leaf	Dust			
Kolkata									
Guwahati									
Siliguri									
Amritsar									
Cochin									
Coonoor									
Coimbatore									
Others (specify)									
Total									

(ii) Price realised

Name of the auction centre	Price realised (in Rs/Kgs)								
	C.T.C.		Orthodox		Darjeeling		Green Tea	Others (specify)	Total
	Leaf	Dust	Leaf	Dust	Leaf	Dust			
Kolkata									
Guwahati									
Siliguri									
Amritsar									
Cochin									
Coonoor									
Coimbatore									
Others (specify)									
Total									

(B) Direct Exports:

Type of Tea	During the month.....	
	Quantity in Kgs	Price realised (in Rs per Kg)
Loose Tea		
Packet Tea		
Tea Bags		

(C) Marketing outside auction in India

(i) Sale to Registered Buyers

Type of Tea	During the month.....	
	Quantity ( in Kgs)	Price realised (in Rs per Kg)
Loose Tea		
Packet Tea		
Tea Bags		

(ii) Sale to consumer through own Retail outlet

Type of Tea	During the month.....	
	Quantity (in Kgs)	Price realised (in Rs per Kg)
Loose Tea		
Packet Tea		
Tea Bags		

(iii) Stock transfer to consignee/commission agents

Type of Tea	During the month.....	
	Quantity (in Kgs)	Reserve/maximum retail price (in R s/Kg)
Loose Tea		
Packet Tea		
Tea Bags		

**GRAND TOTAL OF QUANTITY SOLD (A+B+C):**

(D) Gift to employees (kgs)

26. Closing/unsold Stock at the end of the month (in Kgs):

Type of Tea	C.T.C.	Orthodox	Green Tea	Others (specify)	Total
Loose Tea					
Packet Tea					
Tea Bags					

27. List of Registered Buyers to whom the tea was sold/consigned outside auction during the month under report:

Name of Registered Buyer	Address	Registration No.	Quantity sold/transferred to buyer (Kg)	Place from where tea sold/transferred	Total value realised (Rs) excluding sales tax

--	--	--	--	--

**DECLARATION**

I/we hereby certify that the information including figures given in the above return is correct and that they can be verified from the records.

Signature  
AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

**Place:**

**Date:**

**ANNEXURE IX  
DECLARATION OF GREEN LEAF PRICE UNDER PRICE-SHARING FORMULA**

Sl No.	Name of Factory	TMCO NO.	As Per E-Return (July 2006)	
			Made Tea (Rs/Kg)	Green Leaf (Rs/Kg)
1	Aryaman Tea Factory	(RC. 1545)	N.P.S.	N.P.S.
2	Balasan Tea Factory	(RC. 1672)	58.89	7.60
3	Bansibhariji Tea Factory	(RC. 1672)	58.00	7.48
4	Dalmiya Tea Plants & Ind. Ltd	(RC. 1759)	62.64	8.08
5	Darshanand Holdings Factory	(RC. 1720)	61.06	7.88
6	Duke Tea Private Ltd.	(RC. 1767)	56.77	7.32
7	Durga Tea Industries	(RC. 1776)	60.25	7.77
8	Essels Tea Factory	(RC. 1665)	61.52	7.94
9	Fatapukur Tea Factory	(RC. 1415)	56.00	7.22
10	Gobra Agro Tea Factory	(RC. 1483)	50.00	6.45
11	Gupta Tea Factory	(RC. 1732)	63.99	8.26
12	Himalayan Tea Factory	(RC. 1555)	60.58	7.82
13	Hindustan Tea Processing	(RC. 1412)	70.01	9.03
14	Hanuman Tea Factory	(RC. 1641)	N.P.S.	N.P.S.
15	Joghara Tea Factory	(RC. 1782)	65.00	8.39
16	Kanchan Agro Products	(RC. 1501)	55.98	7.22
17	Kanchanjanga Tea Factory	(RC. 1740)	59.00	7.61
18	Kayan Agro Tea Factory	(RC. 1549)	62.55	8.07
19	Limtex Steels Tea Factory	(RC. 1758)	59.49	7.67
20	Limtex Tea Factory	(RC. 1461)	59.65	7.69
21	M. Rudra Tea Factory	(RC. 1766)	N.P.S.	N.P.S.
22	Manakamna Tea Factory	(RC. 1638)	57.64	7.44
23	Mars Tea (India) Pvt. Ltd.	(RC. 1714)	49.89	6.44
24	Mount View Tea Factory	(RC. 1661)	55.87	7.20
25	Mohitnagar Tea Factory	(RC. 1681)	53.01	6.81
26	P.C.M. Tea Factory	(RC. 1619)	59.64	7.69
27	P.P.S. Progressive Tea Factory	(RC. 1531)	Closed	Closed
28	Parag Tea Factory	(RC. 1450)	59.17	7.63
29	Parsuram Tea Factory	(RC. 1697)	60.61	7.82
30	Pioneer Tea Factory	(RC. 1420)	60.71	7.83
31	Seal Tea Factory	(RC. 1463)	58.12	7.50
32	Sevok Tea Factory	(RC. 1593)	20.00	2.58
33	Shree Ganapati Tea Factory	(RC. 1464)	61.10	7.88
34	Shree Rama Tea Factory	(RC. 1528)	56.35	7.27
35	Sujali Tea Factory	(RC. 1693)	58.60	7.56
36	Sondeep Tea Factory	(RC. 1735)	58.22	7.51
37	Sundaram Agro Tea Factory	(RC. 1537)	62.39	8.04
38	Super Klass Tea Factory	(RC. 1541)	63.54	8.20
39	Shakti Tea Factory	(RC. 1467)	59.94	7.73
40	Shanti Tea Factory	(RC. 1647)	60.39	7.79

<b>41</b>	<b>Tea Tops India Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1462)</b>	<b>65.86</b>	<b>8.50</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Teesta Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd.</b>	<b>(RC. 1749)</b>	<b>63.21</b>	<b>8.15</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Terai Dooars Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1746)</b>	<b>55.15</b>	<b>7.11</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Terai (Karjeepara) Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1721)</b>	<b>58.92</b>	<b>7.60</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Terai Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1644)</b>	<b>47.18</b>	<b>6.09</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Terai Tea Factory (Exp)</b>	<b>(RC. 1628)</b>	<b>57.30</b>	<b>7.39</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Topline Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 2914)</b>	<b>57.38</b>	<b>7.40</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Unique Tea Born Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1630)</b>	<b>N.P.S.</b>	<b>N.P.S.</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Ushasree Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1536)</b>	<b>61.41</b>	<b>7.92</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Vrindaban Tea Factory</b>	<b>(RC. 1770)</b>	<b>54.88</b>	<b>7.08</b>

N.P.S. – Not Properly Submitted

*Source: Tea Board Regional Office, Siliguri, West Bengal*

**ANNEXURE X**

**APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL STIPEND TO STUDENTS FROM THE  
FAMILY/DEPENDENTS OF SMALL TEA GROWERS (STGs)**

(All columns in the Form should be filled in)

Tea Board  
14, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani  
Kolkata-700001

To be filled in by Tea Board Office

Index No.  
Registered No.  
If Sanctioned

1. Full Name of the student.....  
(in capital letters)
2. a) Date of birth.....b) Nationality.....  
c) Sex.....d) Whether the student belongs to Scheduled  
Caste/Tribe (If yes, attach attested certificate).....
3. Full address (Present and Permanent).....
4. Particulars of parents:
  - a) Name of Father.....b) Age.....
  - c) Address.....
  - d) His total income per month.....
  - e) Name of Mother.....f) Age.....
  - g) Address.....
  - h) Her total income per month.....
  - i) Total income of the parents per month.....4(d)+4(h).....
5. Particulars of the Small Tea Grower:
  - a) Name of the Small Tea Grower.....
  - b) Status (proprietor/partner/etc).....
  - c) Age.....
  - d) Address.....
  - e) Name of the tea garden.....
  - f) Address of the tea garden.....
  - g) Area of the tea garden.....
  - h) i) Registration No. of the tea garden with Tea Board.....  
ii) Date of Registration.....
- i) Whether member of any Tea Association/Co-operative Society/any other  
organisation.....
6. a) Exact relationship of the Small Tea Grower with the applicant  
student.....  
b) Whether the student is related to the Small Tea Grower otherwise and the student belongs  
to the family of the Small Tea Grower and is also dependent on the Small Tea  
Grower.....

c) If the student is not related to the Small Tea Grower by birth:  
whether the student has been accepted by the Small Tea Grower as his/her family member  
and he/she (student) is dependent on the Small Tea Grower following the fact that the parents  
of the student are not  
alive.....

7. Total income of the Small Tea Grower's family per month (total income of each member  
of the family from all sources per month are to be added to show the total income of family  
per month and a certificate in this respect issued by State Revenue Authority is to be  
attached).....

8. No. of students (except the applicant) in the family of Small Tea Grower reading in  
educational institution.....

9. If any of them (at Col. No.8) are in receipt of stipend from the Tea Board or from any other  
source, details are to be furnished.....

10. a) Name and address of the institution where admission has been secure for the current  
academic year.....

b) Class, Section & Roll No.....

c) Affiliated to/recognised by.....

d) Name and nature of the course (part-time/full-time) and its  
duration.....

e) Duration of the current academic session: From.....to.....

f) Whether residing in an affiliated hostel and, if so, name and address  
thereof.....

g) Months during the academic year when the hostel remains  
closed.....

11. a) Name of the last annual public examination passed and the year of  
passing.....

b) Aggregate marks (including optional papers).....

c) Marks obtained.....

d) Percentage of marks obtained (with division, if any, an attested copy of mark-  
sheet).....

e) Roll No. in Higher Secondary/Senior Cambridge/Pre-University/Intermediate/Degree  
Examination.....

f) If the student is in receipt of any other scholarship or financial assistance from the State  
Government/University or any other institution or person during the academic year, full  
particulars including the monthly rate, date of award etc. should be  
given.....

12. Nature and amount of Tea Board stipend applied for:

i) Tuition fee (excluding all other fees) payable: Rs.....Per Month  
Rs.....

ii) Hostel Charges:

a) Seat Rent per session: Rs.....Total (a+b+c).....

b) Estt. Charges Rs.....

c) Fooding Charges.....

13. DECLARATION BY THE STUDENT AND THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN AND  
SMALL TEA GROWER:

We hereby declare that the statements made by us in this application form are true to  
the best of our knowledge and belief. We further agree to abide by the terms and conditions  
of the award if the application is selected for the grant of stipend applied for .

( )  
Signature of the student  
With date and place

( )  
Signature of father/mother  
Guardian with date and place

( )  
Signature of Small Tea  
Grower with date and place

14.

RECOMMENDED BY THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION

Certified that I have verified the statements given in this application except item 4 (d to i), 5, 6 (a) (b), 7, 8, 9 for the records and found them to be correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. The student is regular in attendance and his conduct is good. He/she is not in receipt of any other stipend or help during the session and has/have not applied for any other concession. Nor does this institution receive any compensation grant from the State Government for remission of tuition fees for the class in which he/she is reading or for the community to which he/she belongs. The applicant resides in a hostel affiliated to this institution. The institution receives/does not receive grants-in-aid from the state Govt.

(Seal of the Institution)      Signature with name of the Head of the Institution  
Date and Place.....

15.

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD'S LOCAL OFFICE

Certified that Shri/Smt.....is/are the proprietor/partner..... of.....Tea Garden of.....ha. (registered with Tea Board under No.....dt.....) and is father/mother/guardian of Shri/Km..... (at Sl. No.1), Shri/Km.....(at Sl. No.1) is dependent upon Shri/Smt..... (at Sl. No.5a). All the entries made in this application have been verified by me.

(Seal of the Institution)      Signature with name and Designation of the Head of Board's local office  
Date and Place.....