

**Inauguration of Quality Control Laboratory (QCL) at Siliguri by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge) on 5th January, 2016**

- A new Hi tech and state of the art Laboratory was required for the Tea industry in general and for Darjeeling Tea industry in particular for testing of quality standards of Indian tea as per national and international regulatory requirements.
- Accordingly, a proposal of setting up a laboratory was approved under ASIDE Scheme of MOC&I which aimed to undertake services related to
  1. Testing of quality related biochemical parameters of made tea as per FSSAI
  2. Pesticide residue (MRLs)
  3. Metal contaminants
  4. Biopesticides and biofertilizers, etc and
  5. development of superior tea cultivars to be used by the Darjeeling Tea industry.
- The G+4 storied laboratory building has been constructed on 15 Katta land taken on lease by Tea Board from Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development authority at Tea park, near NJP railway station.
- The High end analytical equipments available at Quality Control Laboratory include
  - a. LC MS/MS –For detection of pesticide residue in tea
  - b. ICP MS – For detection of heavy metals in tea
  - c. HPLC & GC MSMS – For analysis of Biochemical and other regulatory parameters.
  - d. Laminar air flow chamber & Autoclave, Bacteriological incubator, Refrigerated incubator shaker, Stereo microscope etc. for testing of microbiological parameters in tea.
- The centre is manned by highly qualified scientists having experience in areas of analytical biochemistry/pesticide residue, microbiology and biotechnology/molecular biology etc. A field expert is also available for field related activities/ trainings.

The Laboratory was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on 05.01.2016. Hon'ble MP Shri S.S..Aluwalia, Additional Secretary, MOC&I, Shri R R Rashmi and Chairman Tea Board, Shri Santosh Sarangi also graced the occasion.







