



Public Notice

Tea Board's view on representations received for resumption of early harvesting of tea leaf after imposing closure of harvesting, manufacturing and packaging of tea in December 2018

Kolkata, January 16 2019: Tea Board had issued an order dated 31.10.2018 imposing mandatory closure of tea leaf plucking / harvesting operations in the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand with effect from 15.12.2018. Further, vide order no. 9(45)/DTD/2018 dated 19.12.2018 the dates for resumption of plucking were stated for the said states, i.e. from 11th February 2019 for the states of West Bengal and Bihar and 28th February 2019 for the other states.

Some tea gardens are requesting for advancing the dates for resumption of plucking operations citing availability of fresh leaves in their gardens. Tea Board has received such representations from six gardens, viz. Nuxalbari Tea Co. P. Ltd., Oodlabari Tea Estate, Aryaman Tea Estate, Mainak Hill Tea Estate, Kumarika Tea Estate and Namring Tea Estate.

Tea Board has declared the dates for resumption based on technical consultations with representatives of industry associations and tea research institutes. However, the Board is considering the representations received, on a case to case basis by referring the matter to a committee of experts who would verify such first flush by field inspections. Only if the expert committee recommends and confirms that quantum of leaves of good quality is found, the Board may consider the matter for the representing gardens.

Nevertheless, in the best interest of the Tea Industry, Tea Board advises the Plantations not to debase their product quality by harvesting leaves of sub-standard quality and to wait for the arrival of the first flush of good quality leaves for resuming the plucking and manufacturing operations.
