

QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY (QCL) OF TEA BOARD GETS NABL ACCREDITATION FOR TEA TESTING

Kolkata, 8 November: The Quality Control Laboratory (QCL) of Tea Board at Tea Park, Siliguri received the NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) accreditation for tea testing. The state-of-the-art laboratory was inaugurated January this year by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Honb'le union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.

The laboratory was set up under ASIDE scheme of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India keeping in mind the national and international regulatory requirements of the Tea industry in general and Darjeeling in particular.

The laboratory aims to provide services related to testing of quality related biochemical parameters of made tea as per FSSAI, Pesticide residue (MRLs), Metal contaminants, Bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers, etc and development of superior tea cultivars to be used by the Darjeeling Tea industry.

The G+4 storied laboratory building of 6000 sq feet was constructed by Tea Board in at Tea Park, near NJP railway station. A Capacity centre for training of tea planters has also been established at Quality Control Laboratory to promote organic tea cultivation in Darjeeling and North Bengal.

The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments like LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS, ICP-MS, HPLC etc. and trained manpower experienced in research areas of analytical biochemistry/pesticide residue, microbiology and biotechnology/molecular biology etc.

At present the NABL accreditation is given for testing bio- chemical parameters of tea along with some pesticides and detection of Iron Filings. The scope will be extended to include more parameters including more pesticides gradually. The Board intends to make the laboratory a *Centre of Excellence*.


