

**TEA INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION WITH THE HON'BLE
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AT
GUWAHATI ON 13TH OCTOBER 2014**



A tea industry stakeholders consultation was held with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in Guwahati on 13th October 2014. It was jointly organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam, and Tea Board of India. In addition to Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, Shri P. Bordoloi, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of Assam, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Rameswar Teli, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, senior officials and important stakeholders of the tea industry were present on the occasion.

Several issues such as increasing the productivity of Indian tea, value addition, product diversification, boosting exports, improving the soil health, taking steps for the welfare of the small tea growers etc. were discussed in-depth at the meeting. The meeting was well represented by stakeholders from all the tea growing states of India.

The Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry stressed on the need to make the tea sector in India more vibrant and improve the well being of all stakeholders of the sector. She added that the both the government as well as all stakeholders of the tea industry need to do a lot more to enhance the brand equity of Indian tea in the international arena and to increase exports.

It was strongly impressed upon by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry that all mandatory provisions such as minimum wages, labour welfare, sustainability, taking care of the aspects of food safety, training of small tea growers etc. must be adhered to strictly.