

**TEA INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AT SILIGURI ON 17TH MAY 2015**

A tea industry stakeholders consultation was chaired by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, Government of India, at Siliguri on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015. It was organised by Tea Board of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Shri Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister, North Bengal Development, Government of West Bengal, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri Bijoy Chandra Barman, Shri Dasarath Turkey, and Smt. Renuka Sinha, all Hon'ble Members of Parliament, senior officials of Government of India, Government of West Bengal & Tea Board and representatives of stakeholders of the tea industry were present on the occasion.

Several issues viz. opening of closed tea gardens, payment of minimum wages, social security of workers, skill development of workers, small growers issues, increasing production and productivity, simplification of procedures, licensing, Auction issues, increasing exports, climate change, Plant Protection Code, Amendment of Tea Act, GI issues were discussed in the meeting.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Hon'ble Minister, laid emphasis on payment of minimum wages to the tea garden workers, opening of closed tea gardens, social security of workers, providing prompt online services, promotion of brand image of India Tea, particularly Darjeeling Tea & aggressive marketing. She also advised for effective coordination among Central Government, State Government, Tea Board and Tea Industry. Later, the Hon'ble Minister also addressed the members of the press.

Earlier, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited two closed tea gardens in Doars – Red Bank and Surendra Nagar on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and interacted with the tea garden workers and enquired about their condition.



**Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, along with other dignitaries, holding a consultation with the stakeholders of the tea industry at Siliguri on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015**



**Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, addressing the stakeholders of the tea industry at Siliguri on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015**



**Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, holding a press meeting after the consultation with the stakeholders of the tea industry at Siliguri on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015**