

**23-A. CIRCULARS ON TEA GARDEN**

**Government of West Bengal  
Commerce and Industries Department  
Cell-T**

No.22-CI/T/6T-30/2000

Dated : 24/2/2005

From : The Special Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal.

Sub : Issuance of NOC for Bought Leaf Factory for manufacturing of tea  
— matters converted herewith.

**MEMORANDUM**

I am directed by order of the Governor to say that following the acceptance of the recommendations of "Tea Committee" constituted by the Government Vide No.127-CI/O/T-Ind/022/02/T dated 26.08.03 it has been decided that Government will not allow any new 'Bought Leaf Factory' to come up.

I am accordingly directed to say that all necessary steps may be taken to rigorously enforce the Government decision, and no permission, License, NOC in any manner should be given to any one that may directly or indirectly facilitate setting up of any new Bought Leaf Factory.

Sd/- Illegible  
Special Secretary.

No. 22-1(10)/CI/T

dated, 24/02/2005

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. Chairman, Pollution Control Board
2. DM, Darjeeling
3. DM, Jalpaiguri
4. DM, Cooch Behar
5. DM, Uttar Dinajpur
6. DLLRO, Darjeeling
7. DLLRO, Cooch Behar
8. DLLRO, Jalpaiguri
9. DLLRO, Uttar Dinajpur
10. Joint Secretary Municipal Affairs Deptt.

Sd/-Illegible  
Special Secretary

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**Government of West Bengal  
Commerce and Industries Department  
Plantation Industries Branch  
4, Camac Street, Kolkata- 700016.**

No.162-CI/O/T-Ind/029/07/PI

Dated: Kolkata, the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

**ORDER**

Whereas on acceptance of the recommendations of the 'Tea Committee' constituted by the Government, restrictions were imposed on setting up of new 'Bought Leaf Factory' in the State Vide No. 22-CI/T/6T-30/2000 dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2005; and

2. Whereas in the present circumstances, in some parts of the State green leaf production of tea has become higher than the capacity of existing factories; And

3. Whereas regarding registration of new Bought Leaf Factory, the Government has taken views of various stakeholders who are of the opinion that the restrictions imposed on BLFs be relaxed; And

4. Whereas the Commerce and Industries Department placed the proposal for allowing new Bought Leaf Factories in the State, before the Standing Committee on Industries of the Cabinet, and the Standing Committee in their 19<sup>th</sup> meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 approved the proposal.

5. Now therefore I am directed by the Governor to say that in compliance with the decisions taken by the Standing Committee on Industries of the Cabinet, new registration of Bought Leaf Factories in the State be allowed upon adhering to the following guidelines:

(A) Any person/body of persons intending to set up a Bought Leaf Factory (BLF) in the State shall submit request to the Tea Board, India, for consideration indicating his/ their intention for setting up of a BLF. Such request shall have to be accompanied by the following information/ documents :-

- i) Name of the applicant with mailing address.
- ii) Status of the applicant (whether Pvt./ Public/ Partnership/Co-operative etc.)
- iii) Details of proposed location.
- iv) Documentary proof in support of ownership of land for proposed factory.
- v) Details of existing Tea Factory within 10 km of the land of the proposed factory.
- vi) In case of Co-operative Factory, the applicant(s) shall indicate detailed list of its members, tea area of each member, and registration document of the co-operative society.
- vii) List of tea growers with names as well as area under tea of such tea growers separately and the expected green leaf available annually as well as during lean and peak season separately from them within 10 kms. of the proposed factory.
- viii) List of machineries along with capacity (make etc. of each machinery).
- ix) Any other information required by Tea Board.

(B) On receipt of the application, Tea Board will make enquiry as is considered necessary and if found in order, place the same before the "Committee for Evaluation of Applications" constituted by the Tea Board comprising of representatives of Tea Board and representatives of the L&LR Department as well as Commerce and Industries Department of the State Government. The Committee will take decision regarding acceptance/ rejection of the application and inform the Tea Board of their decision. The Committee while recommending/ rejecting any proposal, shall take into consideration, inter alia :-

- i) Availability of green tea leaf within 10 kms of the proposed tea factory and the capacity of existing tea factory to process within 10 Kms of the proposed tea factory to assess supply demand imbalance.
- ii) Assessment of existing linkage between concerned small tea growers and existing tea factory in the area and its advantage and disadvantage.
- iii) Capacity of each of the machineries / equipment for withering, rolling, fermenting, drying, sorting etc. and identifying any mismatch between such machineries / equipments.

(C) Applicants whose cases have been found fit for recommendation to Tea Board will be required to submit necessary clearances from different Government Bodies/ Departments/ Authorities/ Organizations and also indicate details of installations of machineries and equipment together with an application in Form A (attached to TMCO 2003), for registration of the Bought Leaf Factory.

(D) After verifying all the information submitted by the applicant the Tea Board will consider granting Registration in favour of the applicant.

This order will take immediate effect.

By order of the Governor

S. Kishore  
Special Secretary  
to the Government of West Bengal

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :

- 1) The Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Writers' Buildings, Kolkata- 700001.
- 2) The Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Land and Land Reforms Department, Writers' Buildings, Kolkata- 700001.
- 3) The Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Labour Department, Writers' Buildings, Kolkata- 700001.
- 4) The Chairman, Tea Board, India, 14, B.T. Maharaj Sarani, Kolkata- 700001.
- 5) The District Magistrate, Darjeeling, P.O. & District – Darjeeling.
- 6) The District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, P.O. & District – Jalpaiguri.
- 7) The District Magistrate, Cooch Behar, P.O. & District – Cooch Behar.
- 8) The District Magistrate, Uttar Dinajpur.
- 9) The Managing Director, WBIDC, 5, Council House Street, Kolkata- 700001.

Sd/-Illegible  
Assistant Secretary

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Part I – Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury etc.

**Government of West Bengal  
Land and Land Reforms Department  
Writers' Buildings, Kolkata – 700001**

**MEMORANDUM**

No. 3362-LP/5M-10/2012

Kolkata, the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

Sub : Tea Tourism Policy

A proposal to allow tea gardens in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling to promote tourism using land allowed to be retained u/s 6(3) of the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act, 1953, for tea gardens has been under active consideration of the Government. It was felt that the promotion of tea tourism will promote tourism, allow the tea gardens to diversify, generate local employment and augment local income. The term “tea tourism” will broadly include the overall experience of tourists in the midst of a tea garden or estate, staying in a heritage bungalow, at a home-stay felling in a tea-village or in a modern resort. Trekking in the natural beauty of a lush tea garden, undertaking a tea-testing session, visiting a modern tea factory and even trying one's hand at plucking tea leaves are all within the idea of “tea tourism”. Other activities may include trekking along nature trails, witnessing local culture and patronizing local artisans.

2. Now, the Governor, after careful consideration of the matter, is pleased to make the Tea Tourism Policy as set out in the succeeding paragraphs :

3. Individual tea gardens will be allowed to exploit tourism potential subject to the following conditions:

- a. The tea garden company must be willing to undertake tea tourism.
- b. Both the plains and hills, land meant for tea tourism will be limited to 5 acres. In the plains, civil construction shall be done in an area not exceeding 1.5 acres while in hills it will be limited to only 1.00 acre. The remaining area should be kept open for landscaping and other beautification work.

c. If the companies owning tea gardens want to undertake tea tourism themselves in their names, no resumption under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act, 1953, will be required. But if they want to do it in a new name, resumption will be required and salami and land revenue at commercial rates will have to be paid.

d. For a joint venture company i.e. between the existing tea company and another company, resumption will be required along with a fresh lease. Salami and land revenue at commercial rates will have to be paid. Further, the tea garden company should have a majority share in joint venture company.

e. No outside entity will be allowed.

f. No land under actual tea plantation is to be used for tea tourism and under no circumstances area under tea plantation should be reduced.

g. Tea gardens can make use of existing guest house/bungalows with necessary renovations if required for temporary accommodation of tea tourists.

h. Any new civil construction will have to be done under the technical guidance and vetting of an expert committee of engineers and architects to be selected by the Tourism department in consultation with tea associations and the Tea Board. The civil construction will be eco-friendly and buildings so constructed will be limited to two-storeys. The projects should be self-contained in terms of water and sanitation and should not result in additional loads on the environment.

i. The Tourism department will develop the DPR check list for submission of a formal proposal for tea tourism. The DPR of tea tourism projects in the prescribed format is to be submitted to the District Magistrate & Collector who in turn after necessary verification will send it to the convener of the Screening Committee to be constituted by the Government.

4. This Screening Committee will consist of :

- i. LRC & Secy. L & LR Department –Chairperson.
- ii. Secretary Tourism Department - Member
- iii. Secretary or representative of C&I Department – Member.
- iv. Secretary or representative of Environment Department – Member.
- v. Representative of the Tea Board - Member
- vi. Representative of tea associations – Member.
- vii. Director of Tourism – Convener.

5. The recommendation of the Screening Committee will be placed before the Standing Committee of Cabinet on Industry, Infrastructure and Employment for approval. The Tourism Department will be nodal department for placing the matter before the said Standing Committee. The final sanction order will be issued by the Tourism Department.

6. In case the project is not started within 3 years from the date of fresh lease/permission, then the lease/permission will be cancelled.

7. After obtaining requisite clearance from the authorities concerned, the lessee shall complete the tea tourism project as per the DPR.

8. This has the approval of the Standing Committee of Cabinet on Industry, Infrastructure and Employment in its meeting held on 05/07/2013.

By order of the Governor

Sanjay Mitra  
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal