

Tea production declines 5% in first seven months of 2018

PS SUNDAR

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India's tea output in the first seven months of the calendar year fell 5.1 per cent on year to 583.84 million kg (mkg).

This comes on top of the lower production in earlier months. "Our compilation shows that in the seven months, India's black tea production fell to 583.84 mkg from 615.51 mkg. This drop of 31.67 mkg marked a decline of 5.15 per cent," Rajesh Gupta, compiler of the annual 'Global Tea Digest' told *BusinessLine*.

The output has fallen in both North India and South

India due to adverse weather conditions.

In the North, black tea production dropped to 462.39 mkg from 477.96 mkg. This drop of 15.57 mkg marked a decline of 3.26 per cent.

Production in the South declined to 121.45 mkg from



137.55 mkg – marking a 11.70 per cent decline.

"The Tea Board has now released the data for July, which shows that the country produced 10.90 million kg (mkg) or 6.72 per cent less black tea than in July 2017. In July, India produced 151.38 mkg against 162.28 mkg in July 2017," Gupta said.

North Indian production dropped by 7.54 mkg (5.28 per cent), while South Indian output fell by 3.36 mkg (17.26 per cent) in July.

Producers apprehend that at this rate, the tea output in 2018 will be around 1,290 mkg (1,322 mkg).