

<u>Owners of bought leaf factories write to Tea</u> <u>Board on pricing</u>

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Udhagamandalam: The Nilgiris Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturers Association (NBLTMA) has written to the deputy chairman of Tea Board India seeking his intervention in the issue related to the district average green leaf price fixed for June 2021.According to the association, the district average price for June has been fixed based on the auction sale that happened in May.

President of NBLTMA Dhananjayan said the entire issue that we are facing today is because the buyers/transporters are not moving teas out of the warehouse for reasons best known to them. The letter said, "Tea Board being the licensing authority approving the prompt extension such as sale postponing and sale cancellation should understand that the cancellation of sale in auction at Coonoor centre has totally crippled the financial system of the Bought Leaf Tea Factories and we are finding it impossible to make the payments to the small tea growers'.

It added, "This will have a chain reaction affecting every element of the manufacturing process, right down to the procurement of the green leaves. Therefore, it has become necessary that the price fixation for June be fixed at the end of the month. This exercise could be followed in the future as it would greatly help the industry, especially during such difficult times."

Dhananjayan said, "Fixation of the district average green leaf price at the end of the month has been our long pending request."