

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1301
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
PLANTATION CROPS
Jagannath Dr. M.,Singh Shri Ganesh Prasad

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch a Major Replantation Programme for a range of plantation crops;
- (b) if so, furnish the details including the crops proposed to be covered under the programme;
- (c) the total hectares of plantation crops proposed to be rejuvenated Crop-wise; and
- (d) the total amount sanctioned under the programme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): TEA: Government has already launched in January, 2007 a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) to extend financial support to the tea growers to take up replanting and rejuvenation of the old tea areas. The programme envisages uprooting and replantation/rejuvenation of 2,12,000 hectares of old and uneconomical sections of tea. The scheme envisages accelerating the pace of replanting and rejuvenation by ensuring availability of funds to the extent of 75% of the unit cost by way of long term loan (50%) and subsidy (25%). The growers are required to bring in only 25% of the total cost. The estimated outlay for the scheme will be Rs. 567.10 crore i.e. capital infusion of Rs.91 crore in SPTF plus subsidy of Rs. 476.10 crore.

COFFEE: In the Union Budget for 2007-08 the Government has proposed a Fund for coffee replantation, on the lines of SPTF for the revival of old and senile coffee plantations which are uneconomical in the present conditions. Coffee Board has identified about 80,000 hectares of coffee area out of total of 3.81 lakhs hectares, which are uneconomical and requires to be replanted to improve farm productivity to desired levels in the long run. An outlay of Rs. 180.00 crore has been prepared by the Coffee Board in the 11th Plan for this purpose.

RUBBER: Rubber Board has formulated a proposal for replanting 33,500 hectare of old and uneconomical rubber plantations in the country with an outlay of around Rs. 50.00 crore in the 11th Plan for payment of planting grant @ 25% of the development cost.

SPICES: Spices Board have submitted a proposal for replantation and rejuvenation of cardamom plantation on the lines of SPTF for tea with a subsidy component of Rs. 211.35 crore covering about 65,000 hectares for small and large cardamom plantation under the 11th Plan.