

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2136
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
TOBACCO BOARD
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) the details regarding composition and mandate of Tobacco Board set up under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975;
- (b) the norms laid down for selection of Board members;
- (c) the extent to which the Board has been able to achieve the objectives as outlined in the Act;
- (d) whether any study has been conducted in the recent past to assess the performance of the Board; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon for planned development of Tobacco Industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) As per Sub-Section 4 of Section 4 of Tobacco Board Act, 1975, the Tobacco Board has following composition:-

- (i) A Chairman to be appointed by the Central Government under clause (a).
- (ii) Three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the Lok Sabha and one by the Rajya Sabha under clause (b).
- (iii) Eight members to be appointed by the Central Government under clause (c) to represent respectively :-

Ministries of Central Government dealing with Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Industrial Development.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka.

(iv) Two members to be appointed by the Central Government by rotation in the alphabetical order, to represent the Governments of tobacco growing states other than the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka under clause (d).

(v) Not more than ten members to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst growers of tobacco, dealers and exporters (including packers) of tobacco and tobacco products, manufacturers of tobacco products and from amongst persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government are experts in tobacco marketing or agricultural economics under clause (e). Provided that the number of members under this clause from amongst the growers of tobacco shall not exceed six.

(vi) The Agriculture Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Rural Development, ex-officio under clause (f).

(vii) The Executive Director, ex-officio under clause (g).

The mandate of Tobacco Board set up under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 is to provide for the development under the control of Union of the Tobacco Industry.

(b) The norms laid down for selection of the Board members prescribed under Chapter II of the Tobacco Board Rules 1976 which provides that the Central Government may make such consultations as it thinks fit before appointing members to be appointed under the provisions contained in clause (c), (d) and (e) of Sub-Section 4 of Section 4. Provided that while appointing members to represent growers of tobacco under clause 'e' of Sub-Section 4 of Section 4; the Government shall appoint only registered growers as members. Provided further that atleast two such members shall be from small or marginal growers.

(c) The objectives of the Tobacco Board are to regulate and to dispose of the virginia tobacco to ensure better remunerative prices to tobacco growers and the overall development of the tobacco sector. The Tobacco Board has successfully made to realize an all time high average prices for the tobacco growers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Apart from it, export of tobacco and tobacco products have increased by 188% and 4015% in terms of quantity and value respectively in 2008-09 from 1974-75.

(d) In the recent past, the Government has not conducted any study to assess the performance of the Board.

(e) Does not arise.