

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3733
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
SPECIAL PURPOSE TEA FUND
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund for improving production and productivity of tea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome achieved thereon; and
- (c) the steps being taken to improve knowledge of tea growers and increase research and development in tea sector?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Government has set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) with the objective of large scale uprooting and replanting/rejuvenation of old tea bushes for improving tea production and productivity. It is envisaged to replant/rejuvenate 2.12 lakh hectares of uneconomic tea areas over a period of 15 years commencing from 2007. Financial assistance is provided by way of long term loan (50% of the unit cost) and subsidy (25% of the unit cost). The balance 25% is to be borne by the beneficiaries. The financial assistance provided under SPTF since inception till 31st March, 2010 towards loan and subsidy is Rs.28.28 crores and Rs.54.85 crores respectively covering an area of 12,342 hectares under replantation and 4,136 hectares under rejuvenation.

(c): Under the ongoing Human Resource Development Scheme of Tea Board, training is provided to the stakeholders on various aspects of tea cultivation, field management and tea manufacturing etc. A special training on modern aspects of tea growing is organized for the small growers representing Self Help Groups (SHGs) who, in turn, on completion of the training impart training to other members of the SHGs. Government is also supporting the research and development activities in tea sector through Tea Board by funding the research and other recognized institutions like Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre, Tea Research Association and United Planters Association of Southern India – Tea Research Foundation, etc under their Research and Development Scheme.