

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:928
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010
SPECIAL PURPOSE TEA FUND
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) the details regarding objective and performance of Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF);
- (b) whether the Government is urging the industry to take up re-plantation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction received so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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 October, 2010 towards loan and subsidy is Rs.31.21 crores and Rs. 77.70 crores respectively covering an area of 15589 hectares under replantation and 5220 hectares under rejuvenation. The initiative has been well received as evidenced by the doubling of the rate of replantation since the launching of SPTF scheme.