

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1762

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

POTENTIAL OF SMALL TEA GROWERS

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

- (a) whether the Government has explored the potential of small tea growers in the industrial growth in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any plan for promotion of Small Tea Growers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the number of small tea growers benefited under the said scheme during 2010-11 so far in various parts of the country?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Small tea growers account for about 28% of total tea area and 26% of the domestic tea production.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. In order to harness the potential economic value of the small tea growers sector, financial assistance is extended to small growers under the 11th Plan schemes of Tea Board for new planting, field inputs, establishment of proper leaf collection systems, transport vehicles, setting up of mini tea processing factories and special training on modern aspect of tea growing. The measures adopted by the Government are aimed at improving their farm productivity and quality of their produce and also providing them market access to ensure remunerative return on their investments.

(e): 21,123 small tea growers have been benefited under the Tea Board's schemes during 2010-11.