

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2817
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
RE PLANTATION AND REJUVENATION OF TEA SECTOR
Balram Shri P.

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a massive re-plantation and rejuvenation drive as the average age of a tea-bush in Darjeeling is 80 years and the plants have lived their life; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof and steps taken in this direction so far?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes Madam. A special Purpose Tea Fund Scheme (SPTF) has been launched for extending financial support for undertaking replanting, replacement planting and rejuvenation of senile tea bushes in all the tea growing states including Darjeeling. The fund comprises of both loan and subsidy components. A sum of Rs.121.44 crores including Rs.1.06 crores for Darjeeling have been disbursed till February, 2011. This has resulted in renovation of an area of upto 21,160 hectares including 288.15 hectares in Darjeeling. The Tea Board, through various forums, has been urging the tea industry to undertake replanting and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The efforts of the Tea Board have borne fruit resulting in almost doubling of the rate of replanting since the launch of the scheme as compared to the earlier rate before the scheme was launched.