

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4982
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
TOBACCO BOARD
Ajay Kumar SHRI

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

- (a) whether the Government is funding the Tobacco Board and the extent of this funding in the last three years;
- (b) whether the mandate of the Tobacco Board is to pursue the promotion and all round development of the tobacco industry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is in conflict of the objectives of the `The Cigarettes and other tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003` (COTPA) and public health;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to modify the mandate of said tobacco Board and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b & c) Yes Madam. However, at present the activities of the Board are restricted to Virginia tobacco only. However, the Board is performing the function of export promotion in respect of Non-Virginia tobacco also. Some of the important functions of the Tobacco Board are regulating the production and curing of the Virginia tobacco to match demand in India and abroad, Propagating information useful to the growers, dealers and exporters (including packers) of Virginia tobacco and manufacturers of Virginia tobacco products, promoting the grading of tobacco at the level of the growers, establishment of Auction Platforms for the sale of Virginia tobacco and function as auctioneer, maintenance and improvement of existing markets and development of new markets outside India , keeping a constant watch on the Virginia tobacco market, both in India and abroad and ensuring fair and remunerative price for the same, purchasing Virginia tobacco from the growers when the same is considered necessary or expedient for protecting the interest of growers.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Currently, there is no such proposal.