

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:136  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012  
DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF TEA BOARD  
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

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

- (a) the details of the developmental activities undertaken by the Tea Board during the last three years and the impact thereof on enhancing productivity as well as improving the quality of tea in the country;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Tea Board for improving its position in the world as well as in domestic market;
- (c) whether the Tea Board has been able to discharge its basic regulatory role effectively;
- (d) if so, thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether a number of small tea growers are still outside the ambit of the regulation of the Tea Board and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 136 FOR ANSWER ON 3RD DECEMBER 2012 REGARDING 'DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF TEA BOARD'

(a): Replantation/rejuvenation of old and uneconomical tea bushes, creation of irrigation and transport facility, collectivisation of small and marginal holdings, quality upgradation, value addition, produce certification, encouraging production of orthodox and green tea and new planting in small holdings in hilly and North East region are the developmental activities undertaken by the Tea Board during the last 3 years.

Impact of above activities has contributed to the sustained and steady increase in production, quality and improvement in tea prices when compared to previous three years as shown in the table 1 & 2 below:-

Table-1. Production in million kg -Five year moving average since 2006-07.

A: Production during 2006-09      B. Production during 2009-12

Year    2006-07    2007-08    2008-09    2009-10    2010-11    2011-12

Production    911    939    958    975    978    979

Table-2. Tea prices at public auctions in India in Rs per kg of made tea.

A: Prices during 2006-08      B. Prices during 2009-11

Year    2006    2007    2008    2009    2010    2011

Price 66.01 67.27 86.99 105.60 104.66 104.06

(b): Tea Board is taking initiatives for quality improvement by way of factory modernisation involving replacement of old and worn out processing machineries, value addition by packaging and blending and tea bagging, quality assurance certification of factories. In addition two export councils one each for North and South India are being set up for ensuring effective quality control of tea exported as well as imported for re-export. A special promotional project `Project 5-5-5` has been formulated to focus on export to five potential markets viz. U.S.A., Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran and Egypt through implementation of five specific activities over five years of 12 Plan period.

(c) & (d): Tea Board has been able to discharge its basic regulatory role effectively in accordance with the provisions of the Tea Act and orders issued there under. Following are the specific activities performed for regulating the Tea Industry

# Granting permission for tea cultivation;

# Issuing licenses to exporters, tea distributors;

# Issuing tea waste license, tea warehouse license;

# Registrations of tea manufacturing units, auction organizers/ auction brokers, buyers; and

# Regular inspection of factories and warehouses to monitor proper manufacture, storage and disposal of tea waste etc.

(e): Many small growers have taken up tea cultivation without any prior intimation to the Board. As per the provisions of Tea Act, all the tea growers are required to obtain a planting permit from Tea Board prior to planting for which they need to produce ownership documents. Estimated number of small growers in the country as on date is around 2 lakh whereas only 32,000 growers have so far been registered with Tea Board. Rest could not be registered for want of land ownership documents. However, steps have been initiated for enumeration of small growers either through the concerned state governments or directly by the field offices of the Board. On completion of enumeration, each grower will be issued with an identity card so as to facilitate him/her to enrol with primary producer groups for availing the common benefits and also for supplying green leaf to the tea factories registered with Tea Board. A separate Directorate with adequate manpower has been established for looking after the developmental needs of the small sector.