

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013
INCENTIVES FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS
Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the share of small tea growers in the total production of tea has declined during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to support the small tea growers;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any financial packages and improved technologies for the small tea growers;
- (d) if so, the details of the total funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three years and the current year along with the present status of the manufacturing units in these gardens; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken to address the concerns of the tea industry and boost the production of tea particularly to increase the contribution of small tea growers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) & (b): No, Madam.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. In order to harness the potential economic value of the small grower sector, focused attention is being paid and financial assistance is being extended for the following activities:
- (i) 100 % grant for setting up of leaf collection centers, storage godowns, purchasing leaf weighing scales, Plastic crates/nylon leaf carry bags.
- (ii) 50% subsidy for purchase of transport vehicles.
- (iii) Revolving fund @ Rs.10, 000 / ha for meeting the cost of field inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, sprayers etc.
- (iv) A special training on modern aspects of tea growing is organized for two selected members from each Self Help Group (SHG) who, in turn, on completion of the training are expected to impart training to other members of the SHG and also take care of the management of the tea area under the command of the SHG. Besides meeting the training fee and boarding and lodging cost, each trainee is provided with stipend @Rs.500 per month for next six months from the date of completion of the training.
- (v) Financial assistance is also provided for establishing mini tea processing factories. @ 40% of the cost subject to a ceiling limit of Rs.25 lakhs per factory.
- (vi) 25% subsidy for new planting upto 4 ha per grower in hilly areas.

Particulars of financial assistance given to Small Tea Growers over the last three years are shown below:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

Activity	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
New Planting	570.00	691.00	582.50	1843.50
Replanting	87.89	107.90	75.45	271.24
Rejuvenation	59.81	125.84	106.02	291.67
Self Help Group	50.00	558.63	99.50	708.13
Setting up of New factories	0	474.77	0	474.77
Training /workshop / study tour etc	343.26	126.58	978.74	1448.58
Total	1110.96	2084.72	1842.21	5037.89

- (e): Several measures have been taken to address the concerns of the tea industry and boost the production of tea and increase the

contribution of small tea growers in the country. A total budget outlay of Rs.1425 Cr has been earmarked for the XII Plan period. Specific measures being undertaken for increasing the production would include encouraging replanting/rejuvenation of old and uneconomical tea areas, creation of irrigation facilities for overcoming the adverse effects of drought, mechanisation of field operation, collectivisation of small growers for moving up in the value chain. A separate Small Grower Development Directorate with adequate technical man power has since been created to take care of the developmental needs of the small sector.