

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2730

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013

COMMODITY BOARDS

Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Karunakaran Shri P.;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) the details of the Commodity Boards for the promotion of export of various products functioning in the country along with the total export of such products which come under these Boards;
- (b) whether the Tobacco Board has recently been reconstituted and if so, the details thereof along with the details of the members of the said Board and the criteria adopted for selection of board members;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revive the ancient sea route for spice trade between Kerala and Middle East countries and if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made by the Government to revive the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to start Rubber Industry Training Centres in the country particularly in Kerala; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time likely to be taken in setting up and completing the project along with the role likely to be assigned to the State Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) : There are five Commodity Boards viz. Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board and Tobacco Board for the promotion of export of tea, coffee, rubber, spices & tobacco and tobacco products which are functioning under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The total export from these commodities was 1,520,639 tons during 2012-13.
- (b) : No, Madam. The Tobacco Board has not been reconstituted recently. It was last reconstituted in 2010 as per sub section 4 of Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and a few members were nominated subsequently. A list of the present Members of the Board is annexed.
- (c) : No, Madam. Indian spices are already being exported to more than 135 countries all over the world through various sea routes as well as by air.
- (d) & (e) : No, Madam. Most of the skill development programmes in rubber based industries are conducted at Rubber Training Institute (RTI) and Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) of Rubber Board at Kottayam, Kerala.