

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2754
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
TEA GROWERS IN KARNATAKA
A. VENKATESH NAIK

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

- (a) the approximate number of small tea growers in Karnataka and total land legally under their possession;
- (b) the share of Karnataka in total tea production of the country;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to encourage the small growers of tea;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the per hectare incentive given to the tea growers in Karnataka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

- (a): The growers holding upto 10.12 hectares are considered as small tea growers. The number of small tea growers from Karnataka registered with the Tea Board is 16 and the total area owned by them is about 83 hectares.
- (b): The share of Karnataka in the total tea production of the country is about 0.64%.
- (c) & (d): The 10th Plan schemes of the Tea Board give special emphasis on the development of small growers sector for enhancing the productivity and quality of tea produced by them. Assistance is provided to small tea growers both by way of subsidy and also through formation of 'Self Help Groups' through which these groups can collectively organise plucking at regular intervals, procure inputs and supply leaf to the tea factories.
- (e): The scale of financial assistance provided by the Tea Board to the tea growers, including those in Karnataka, w.e.f. 01-04-2002 is as under:

S.No.	Activity	Nature of Assistance	Rate
1.	Replanting/Replacement planting in traditional area (Plains)	Subsidy	Rs. 52,000/- per hectare
2.	Replanting/Replacement planting in traditional area (Hills)	-do-	Rs. 62,000/- per hectare
3.	Setting up of tea nursery in Govt. Sector	Grant-in-Aid	Rs. 2.00 per plant
4.	Upgradation of existing tea factory in Leaf Factory/Co-operative Sector	Bought Subsidy	25% of total cost of machinery subject to a ceiling limit of Rs. 25.00 lakhs.
5.	Setting up of tea factory in Government Sector.	Co-operative/ Loan as a soft loan.	50% of cost of plant & machinery

During the 10th Plan, assistance from the Tea Board would be limited to development of the existing area only and there is no provision for encouraging new planting other than in the North-Eastern region and in the State of Uttaranchal.