

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 275**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 05<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

**ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONING OF SPICES BOARD**

275. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री)** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a report on the activities and functioning of the Spices Board, concerted action is required to check the decline in yielding area of small cardamom in the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the specific measures which will be taken by the Government to address this matter;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that as per the said report, the absence of a full time Chairman has affected the smooth discharge of the functions and duties prescribed under the Spices Board Act, 1986;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not appointing a full time Chairman; and
- (e) the steps which the Government will take to expedite the appointment of a full time Chairman?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a)& (b): There has been no decline in the area of small cardamom in the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. However, during the year 2016-17, the total production of cardamom has seen marginal decline mainly due to drought/long dry spell that prevailed in the cardamom growing areas of Kerala, thereby negatively affecting the production of small cardamom. The details regarding production of small cardamom in the last 5 years is given below:

(in Metric Tonnes)

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
14000	16000	18000	23892	17990

Government through the Spices Board is implementing the “Integrated Scheme for Export Promotion & Quality Improvement in Spices and Research & Development of Cardamom” to provide financial assistance to the spice growers and traders, including the cardamom growers. Under the scheme several financial assistance is provided which inter-alia includes support for cardamom replanting, production of quality planting material, irrigation and land development, improved cardamom curing devices, supply of integrated pest management input kits, farm mechanization etc. Training programmes are also conducted to educate the cardamom growers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

During the Medium Term Frame Work (2017-18 to 2019-20), Government has approved a total financial outlay of Rs. 491.78 crore for export development and promotion of spices including small cardamom, with a special focus on area expansion programme in non-traditional cardamom growing areas.

(c),(d) &(e): Steps have been taken for appointment of a full time Chairman in the Spices Board.

\*\*\*\*\*