

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4164
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th JANUARY, 2019

MERGER OF COMMODITY BOARDS

4164. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning merger of the Commodity Boards into a single entity in order to improve production and exports of plantation crops and if so, the details thereof along with the initiatives of these Boards to enhance the quality and boost exports of plantation crops;
- (b) whether exports of Coffee, Tea, Spices, Tobacco have recorded positive growth during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of grants received by these Boards for implementation of Schemes in the respective sectors during the last three years;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for creating Cashew Board and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has approved to extend 7th CPC benefits to Pensioners of Coffee Board and other Commodity Boards w.e.f. 1/1/2016, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) : No Madam. Government has taken various initiatives through the individual Commodity Boards to enhance the quality and boost exports of these plantation crops by way of providing financial and technical assistance to the growers and the industry for new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, quality up-gradation, value addition and market promotion through the schemes implemented by the these Boards.
- (b) : The exports of coffee, tea and spices have recorded positive growth in 2017-18 against 2016-17 and 2015-16. The export of tobacco has shown a decreasing trend. The details of export during last three years are as below:

(Qty. in MT and Value in Rs. Crores)

Crop	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Export (Qty)	Value	Export (Qty)	Value	Export (Qty)	Value
Tea	2,32,920	4493.10	2,27,630	4632.50	2,56,570	5064.88
Coffee	3,10,015	5056	3,43,933	5447	3,95,014*	6210
Spices	8,43,255	16238.23	9,47,790	17812.23	1,028,060	17980.16
Tobacco	2,43,418	6058.13	2,31,800	5975.08	2,12,916	5539.94

Source: Commodity Boards. * Provisional.

(c) : The details of grants received by these Boards for implementation of Schemes in the respective sectors during the last three years are as below:

Board	2015-16 (Actual)	2016-17 (Actual)	2017-18 (Revised)
Tea Board	179.46	150.41	190.60
Coffee Board	157.34	154.74	186.55
Rubber Board	241.74	184.75	183.08
Spices Board	115.35	89.35	97.10
Tobacco Board	Tobacco Board has not drawn any grants from the Government.		

(d) : There is no such proposal.

(e) : The Department of Commerce has approved to extend 7th CPC benefits to Pensioners of Coffee Board and other Commodity Boards viz. Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board and Tobacco Board with effect from 1.1.2016 vide order dated 27.12.2018 and vide order dated 17.12.2018 for Tobacco Board's pensioners.
