

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 443
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2025

Restructuring and Strengthening of APEDA

443. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

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

- a. whether it is a fact that APEDA's annual budget has been stagnant for many years and more than 15 positions are lying vacant and has not been filled so far, if so, the details thereof;
- b. whether the Government has created new posts in APEDA, Chennai and other regional centres and if so, the details thereof;
- c. whether the Government has any plan for the restructuring of APEDA with enhanced budget outlay to keep pace with the emerging new trends and potentialities in trade, commerce and economy and if so, the details thereof; and
- d. the steps taken by the APEDA to conduct awareness programs and workshops to motivate entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) An amount of Rs. 405.02 Crores has been allocated by Government to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26). The total allocation has been apportioned in the five-year period, with yearly allocations almost equally apportioned in the plan period, to ensure optimal and full utilization of funds. The detail of the Budget Allocation to APEDA is as below:

Amount in Rs. crores

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Fund Allocated	85	80	80	80	80.02

A total of 26 posts (21 posts under Group-A and 05 posts under Group-B) are presently vacant in APEDA, on account of superannuation of personnel/creation of new posts and the recruitment process is underway to fill up these posts. The details of vacancies in APEDA are as below:

Group A					
	Director	General Manager	Secretary	Deputy General Manager	Assistant General Manager
Vacant posts	1	2	--	3	15

Group B			
	Manager	Assistant Manager	Junior Hindi Translator
Vacant posts	1	3	1

As per APEDA Restructuring Report approved by the Government in January 2019, Group C posts once vacant (47 Vacancies) are not to be filled, except for promotion to the posts of Assistant/Cash Executive.

(b) Yes, the Government has created twenty new posts in APEDA in September 2022, for posting in APEDA Headquarters and other regional offices, including Chennai. The breakup and details of new posts are as below:

Name of the post	Group	Number of Posts
Deputy General Manager	A	02
Assistant General Manager	A	08
Assistant Manager	B	10
Total new posts created		20

(c) The Department of Commerce had undertaken a comprehensive review of the functioning of APEDA and had approved the restructuring report in respect of APEDA in January 2019. The report included various recommendations which inter-alia included creation of posts at various levels, engagement of subject matter experts, re-designation, and merger of posts at the same pay-levels, opening of new regional offices of APEDA, discontinuation of Group C posts etc.

(d) APEDA, through its Headquarters and regional office at Chennai has been organizing training, sensitization, outreach and capacity building programs, for various stakeholders of the State, including State Government department officials, farmers & Farmer producer organizations (FPOs), women entrepreneurs, start-ups, exporters for creating awareness regarding export opportunities for agricultural & processed food products, certification requirements, adherence to quality standards, organic production and certification requirements etc. In the last financial year more than 80 training and capacity building programmes were held in the State of Tamil Nadu which were attended by approximately 8300 participants.
