

1991, there was a sharp rise in demand and, therefore, the average price in auctions in Andhra Pradesh increased to Rs. 33 per kg.

However, this year there has been a decline in the average price in the auctions in Andhra Pradesh. The average price this year is about Rs. 28 per kg as against the average price of Rs. 33 per kg for the last year's auctions. This is against the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of about Rs. 16 per kg fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices and the Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP), assured by the trade of Rs. 18.50 to Rs. 21.50 per kg.

The decline in prices has come about due to a variety of factors. There has been higher production this year in some of the competing countries such as Brazil, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Argentina and Mexico. The Russians have so far opened LCs only for 9,600 metric tonnes as against 25,000 metric tonnes envisaged in the Indo-Russian Trade Protocol for 1992. The UK merchants, who are among our major buyers, have been less active this year. Following the recent currency devaluation in Zimbabwe, Indian tobacco is facing stiff price competition from that country.

The FCV tobacco prices during the current season are the highest ever except during the last year. The interest of the tobacco growers is uppermost in the mind of the Government. Government, through the Tobacco Board, has taken all possible steps to ensure that the farmers get the best price possible in a given international demand and supply situation.

Workers' Participation in Management of NTC Mills

*153. SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers' participation

has improved the functioning of the mills under the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, how many mills have workers' participation in the management;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce workers' participation in all the NTC mills;

(d) whether there is any workers' participation at Board of Director level in NTC;

(e) if so, the details there; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Workers' Participation in Management in NTC mills has helped in improving Industrial Relations.

(b) The scheme of Workers' Participation has been introduced in 80 textile mills of National Textile Corporation in the form of Management Committees.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) It is first proposed to introduce Workers' Participation in the Management of all the Mills of NTC in the form of Management Committees before considering their representation on its Board of Directors.

Smuggling of Sandal Wood Logs

*155. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of sandal wood logs from Southern States;

(b) if so, the cases detected by the Government during the last year and upto June, 30, 1992: