

Production of Tobacco and setting up of Tobacco Trading Corporation

1467. SHRI N.V. RATNAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco produced in each State for the last five years;

(b) the steps taken by Government for fixation of minimum export prices for tobacco;

(c) the steps taken or proper canalisation of all tobacco exports;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to set up Tobacco Trading Corporation on the lines of Jute Government and Tea Trading Corporation; and

(e) The reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) A statement showing the production of tobacco Statewise during the last five years is attached.

(b) Minimum Export Prices (MEP) for export of different grades of Flue-Cured Virginia Tobacco, Sun-Cured Virginia Tobacco, Sun-Cured 'Natu' (Country) and Sun-Cured Jutty Tobacco for the crops of 1985, 1984 and 1983 as applicable from 1-2-1985 have been announced on 1-2-1985.

(c) Canalisation of the exports of all tobacco through a canalising agency has not been found feasible.

(d) and (e). The Andhra Pradesh Government had inter-alia suggested setting up of an organisation in the Central Sector to purchase VEC tobacco from primary growers. This has been examined by Government. An auction system has since been introduced in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for sale of Tobacco. A Trading Wing has also been set up in the Tobacco Board to undertake limited market intervention in the auction system through mopping up of unsold offerings at the auction platforms at the minimum support price. Under the circumstances, it is not considered necessary to set up a Trading Corporation for the present.

Statement

Production of tobacco in major producing states of India from 1979-80 to 1983-84
(thousand tonnes)

S.N.	States	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
1.	Andhra Pradesh	154.9	164.0	193.4	270.2	191.9
2.	Bihar	11.7	9.7	13.3	12.9	13.4
3.	Gujarat	174.9	185.2	209.5	197.1	186.9
4.	Karnataka	26.6	33.9	29.0	38.4	28.8
5.	Maharashtra	7.9	6.8	7.3	7.1	7.9
6.	Orissa	8.6	11.3	7.8	7.2	10.2
7.	Tamil Nadu	19.1	22.4	22.9	9.2	13.7
8.	Uttar Pradesh	13.8	20.2	15.4	15.3	19.7
9.	West Bengal	11.5	17.4	13.3	15.8	15.5
10.	Others/Union Territories	9.5	9.9	9.2	8.4	9.1
	All India	438.5	480.8	520.1	581.6	497.1