

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:286
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
CROP HOLIDAY FOR TOBACCO GROWERS
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a demand to declare crop holiday for tobacco growers/farmers all over the country during 2000-2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the representatives of tobacco growers have also suggested various welfare schemes for tobacco growers/farmers of the country ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

a) to d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 286 TO ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2000 REGARDING CROP HOLIDAY FOR TOBACCO GROWERS.

a) There has been a demand in Andhra Pradesh for the declaration of a crop holiday all over the country for the crop year 2000-2001. The Government of Andhra Pradesh supported the same while the Governments of Karnataka and Orissa expressed their farmers' intent to produce Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco.

b) Tobacco crop sizes and related matters are to be decided by the Tobacco Board. The Tobacco Board at its meeting held on 27.3.2000 resolved to suspend registration of tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh and to refrain from fixing a crop size for FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001. A crop size of 25 million kgs was fixed for the Karnataka crop. On 28.7.2000 the Board resolved to allow the Orissa State Government's request to register farmers of that State to grow tobacco.

c) & d) Suggestions of the tobacco growers' representatives for the welfare of the tobacco growers include :-

- i) Providing loans for processing the tobacco by growers;
- ii) Stagger loan recoveries from the third and subsequent consignments sold;
- iii) Setting up a stabilisation fund to help steady prices;

The State Level Bankers Committee resolved to assist the farmers in securing crop loans, obtain loans for processing their crop from the banks and also to desist from recovering past crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers' sales for the first two lots put for sale at the auctions. The concept of a stabilisation fund is under examination.