

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1342  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000  
EXPORT OF TOBACCO  
BHUMA NAGI REDDY

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

(a) whether the tobacco manufacturers are not purchasing stocks at competitive price from certain districts like Prakasam and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to intervene in the matter and facilitate export of the stocks to Russia to help tobacco dealers ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) Purchase of tobacco stocks from growers at auction platforms of Andhra Pradesh has just commenced on 22nd Feb, 2000 and is yet to gain its momentum in the ensuing auction season.

(b) As the bulk of tobacco exports are against rupee payment by Russia, the Government of India have asked the Russian Authorities to allocate sufficient rupee funds to the Russian cigarette factories on credit terms to enable them to purchase Indian tobacco. An Indian delegation would visit Russia shortly to pursue the matter and to explore opportunities for greater cooperation between the tobacco industries of the two countries.