

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3217

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000

TOBACCO STOCKS

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

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

- (a) whether a huge stock of tobacco is lying with farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether tobacco manufacturers are not purchasing this stock at competitive price from farmers;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to take any effective steps to intervene in the matter and facilitate for export of this stock to help tobacco farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) & (b) The FCV tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra have produced a crop of 138.68 million kgs against an authorised crop of 101.61 million kgs. Of this production 79.30 million kgs has been sold at the 21 auction platforms as on 7.8.2000. FCV tobacco farmers of Karnataka are yet to harvest their crop for the current year.
- (c) Tobacco manufacturers have purchased 42 million kgs of FCV tobacco so far marketed. This is about 52% of the crop marketed.
- (d) & (e) Government has taken the following steps to intervene in the market and to facilitate export :-
  - i) STC was directed to enter the market to lend buoyancy in the market. STC began purchasing with effect from 21st April, 2000.
  - ii) The Tobacco Board has entered the market to purchase low grades at Minimum Support Prices.
  - iii) The AP Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union has entered the market with effect from 31.7.2000.
  - iv) An Indian tobacco trade delegation including STC representatives visited Russia to explore opportunities for tobacco export. Further, a delegation visited Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan in May, 2000 to find new market for export of tobacco. A vietnamese delegation is likely to make a reciprocal visit to India by the end of this month.