

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3521
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
TIMELY RELIEF TO TOBACCO GROWERS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Tobacco crops were badly damaged due to unseasonal rains/cyclonic storm in December, 2003;
- (b) whether areas under cultivation for the crops except Tobacco have already been provided compensation;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and reasons for ignoring tobacco growers;
- (d) whether the Government has since received a request from tobacco growers for timely relief on the same lines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The standing Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop was damaged to some extent in West Godavari, East Godavari, Khammam and Guntur districts.

(b) to (e) Normally, in the event of natural calamity, relief is extended by the State Governments. Available information suggests that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had provided relief to the extent of Rs.2000/- per hectare in respect of affected areas under cultivation of all crops except FCV tobacco. It had asked the Central Government to extend assistance to the affected FCV tobacco growers. The Central Government has already extended relief to these growers as under:

(i) interest subsidy to the extent of 100% for one year on additional loans availed by the growers whose crops were affected totally by the cyclonic rains; and

(ii) compensation for heavily and very heavily damaged barns at the rate of Rs.2500/- and Rs.3500/- respectively.