

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2948  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006  
FUEL SOURCE FOR TOBACCO GROWERS .  
Vijayashankar Shri C.H.

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

- (a) Whether there is a huge demand for Virginia quality tobacco produced in Mysore District of Karnataka both in India and abroad;
- (b) Whether wood is used as fuel to cure tobacco;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) Whether Government proposes to provide an alternative fuel on subsidized rates to the tobacco growers; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a): Yes, Sir. There is demand of Virginia tobacco produced in Mysore district of Karnataka both in India and abroad.

b& c): The tobacco growers in Karnataka do not entirely depend upon wood fuel from forests for curing tobacco. Some growers also use agri-waste like coconut shells, paddy husk, Maize cobs, cotton stalks, briquettes made from agri-waste, coffee husk, stubbles from social forestry, etc besides wood fuel from trees from their own fields.

d)& e): The Tobacco Board is pursuing growers to raise their own fuel by planting fast growing trees in 0.5 acre to 1 acre in their lands to have continuous fuel supply for one tobacco barn for 6 to 10 years besides raising fast growing trees on the bunds of their fields. Board proposes to supply seedlings of fast growing trees at subsidized rates to growers for raising these plantations. The Board is also promoting manufacturing of briquettes from tobacco & cotton stalks and has already demonstrated the same in tobacco growing areas in A.P. The Board also proposes to extend subsidy for setting up of briquette making units for tobacco curing. The Board is pursuing developing solar barns with the help of Solar Energy Center, New Delhi, a Govt. of India Organisation. The Solar Energy Centre is likely to take up the project soon.