

<b>Statement</b>	
Sl.No.	Name of Unit
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
1.	M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Co. Ltd.
2.	M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd.
3.	M/s. Universal Tobacco Co. Ltd.
4.	M/s. Nava Bharat Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>Bihar</b>	
1.	M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
<b>Gujarat</b>	
1.	M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	
1.	M/s. J&K Cigarettes Ltd.
<b>Karnataka</b>	
1.	M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
<b>Maharashtra</b>	
1.	M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Ltd.
2.	M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd.
3.	M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
4.	M/s. Crown Tobacco Co. Ltd.
5.	M/s. Masters Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>Tamilnadu</b>	
1.	M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd.
2.	M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	
1.	M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
2.	M/s. International Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>West Bengal</b>	
1.	M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
2.	M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd.
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	
1.	M/s. Laxmi Distributors Ltd.

[English]

**Export of Tobacco to Russia and CIS Countries**

4267.DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra and Karnataka Tobacco Farmers' Federation has urged the Government to remove the hurdles in the debt repayment mechanism to Russia and CIS countries and increase the tobacco exports to these countries to a minimum of 30 billion kilograms this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS countries during 1996-97 and 1997-98; if so, the action

(c) whether any preliminary negotiations have been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed as to taken to boost the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS States;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes. Sir. Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka Tobacco Farmers Federation in their representation have suggested for :

(i) Enhancement of exports quota to Russia under the debt repayment from 20,000 to 30,000 metric tonnes and (ii) for removal of hurdles in exports under the debt repayment route.

(b) to (e) Under a bilateral perspective plan agreement, the Russian Government allocates rupee repayment funds to facilitate import of Tobacco upto 20,000 metric tonnes from India each year. The perspective Plan is at present operational for the period 1995-97. Some of the steps taken/being taken to assist farmers and to enhance exports includes :

(i) Exploring possibilities of entering into long term supply contracts with the tobacco processing plants in Russia.

(ii) Persuading Russian authorities through bilateral discussions to fully utilise the funds allocated under the rupee repayment funds for purchase of tobacco from India.

(iii) Facilitating contacts between importers from Russia and others CIS countries with Indian tobacco manufacturers and exporters through visit of trade delegations.

(iv) Permitting stock and sales of tobacco in CIS

countries and exports on consignment basis against payment in freely convertible currencies.

- (v) Encouraging Indian exporters to set up offices in CIS countries.
- (vi) Opening of 3 additional auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to sell their produce early.
- (vii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufacturers and other Traders to participate actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco crop produced.
- (viii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee Price (MGP) for tobacco purchase which is higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.
- (ix) Assisting the tobacco trade in obtaining larger quantum to credit from the financial institutions for making purchases of tobacco.
- (x) Participating in trade fairs & exhibitions abroad and arranging buyer-seller meet to enhance tobacco exports.

[Translation]

#### P.M.R.Y. in Rajasthan

4268. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn the news item captioned, "Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana - Rajasthan to discontinue scheme" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated February 11, 1997;

(b) if so, whether major shortcomings have been identified in the effective implementation of the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to take action to bring and improvement in the implementation of the above scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item in 'The Statesman' dated 11.02.1997. But the State Government has stated that they

had not made any mention about discontinuance of the said scheme.

(b) to (e) The scheme is reviewed from time to time at District, State and Central level for improving its implementation. Recently, Union Industry Minister reviewed the scheme with State Governments, banks and the RBI on 11.02.97. Amongst other measures, it was decided that sponsoring of applications, sanctions and disbursements under PMRY should be speeded up.

#### Demand of Newsprint

4269. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the annual demand of newsprint in the country;

(b) if so, the total demand of newsprint estimated during each of the last three years and for 1997-98; and

(c) the measures taken to meet the future demand of the newsprint in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The total demand of standard newsprint estimated during the last three years and for 1997-98 has been as under :-

Year	Demand (in lakh MT)
1994-95	6.00
1995-96	6.30
1996-97	6.62
1997-98	6.95

(c) Government has taken following steps to meet the demand of the newsprint in the country :

(i) Newsprint has been placed under OGL.

(ii) Under the New Industrial Policy, newsprint and writing & printing paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty if the mills manufacturing newsprint are included in Schedule-I of the Newsprint Control Order, 1962.