

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1668  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008  
RUSSIAN BAN ON INDIAN TOBACCO  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether Russia has imposed a ban on Indian tobacco;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to save the Indian tobacco farmers;
- (c) whether any steps has been taken by the Government to revoke the Russian ban on Indian tobacco; and
- (d) 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) to (d) : Russian authorities had imposed temporary restrictions on import of plant products including tobacco from India w.e.f. 28.01.2008. The matter was strongly taken up by the Department of Commerce. This led to negotiations in Moscow on 5.2.2008 between Minister of Agriculture of Russian Federation and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of India. This resulted in relaxation of restrictions on 11.02.2008. Import of unmanufactured tobacco to Russian Federation is allowed subject to the following conditions:

1. Only unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco refuse covered by the ITC head HS2401 are permitted for import.
2. The imports of tobacco are allowed through the state border checkpoints of the Russian Federation, located in the regions of activity of Rosselkhoznadzor departments in St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Kaliningrad regions.
3. Tobacco shipments from India shall be in compliance with Phytosanitary requirements of the Russian Federation.
4. The tobacco shall be shipped in packages manufactured without use of natural plant fibers.
5. The shipment shall be accompanied with the information about preventive disinfections of stocks and containers carried out by the agencies authorized by the Indian National Quarantine and Plant Protection Organisation.