

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:183

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

TOBACCO CULTIVATION

Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is planning to reduce tobacco production as part of its commitment to the World Health Organisation (WHO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken so far in this direction;
- (c) the total area under tobacco cultivation during the last three years;
- (d) whether the farmers would be given adequate compensation to shift to alternative crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the subsidy amount provided for this purpose?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a)&(b): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India has funded a research project entitled `Alternative crops to bidi and chewing tobacco in different agro ecological sub regions` at the Central Tobacco research Institute, Rajahmundry of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with an outlay of Rs.2.2 crores The project is in operation for finding suitable recommendations to tobacco growers for shifting to alternative crops/cropping systems to tobacco and is to be completed in three phases viz. i) Identification of alternative crops /cropping system, ii) Demonstration and iii) Popularization of the viable crops/ cropping system in different states.

(c): The total area under tobacco cultivation during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Area (Million ha)
2007-08	0.35
2008-09	(Provisional) 0.39
2009-10	(Provisional) 0.44

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

(d): At present, no proposal is under consideration for giving compensation to the farmers. However, tobacco growing farmers are encouraged to grow other remunerative crops in place of tobacco.

(e): Does not arise.