

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3436
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
ALTERNATIVES TO TOBACCO GROWING
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausaheb

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is working on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing according to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines;
- (b) if so, whether working group is preparing draft policy options and recommendations on 'economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing';
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken views of the tobacco farmers and its related industries in our country before presenting the views to WHO; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken/proposed by the Government to incorporate the views of tobacco farmers and its related industries before taking a final decision?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (e): Currently no such guideline have been developed by WHO, however, Article 17-18 of WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), to which India is a Party, deal with "economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing". India, along with Brazil, Greece, Turkey is a key facilitator of the Working Group (WG) for development of Guidelines/policy options under the said Articles. The Working Group has finalised a draft of the "Draft policy options and recommendations on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing" which will be presented to 5th Session of the Conference of Parties under WHO-FCTC from 12-17 November 2012 in Seoul, South Korea.

For presenting its view to WHO , the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has consulted the Ministry of Agriculture and has also taken into account the findings of the pilot project for encouraging alternative crops to tobacco in five different agro-climatic zones, implemented by Central Tobacco Research Institute, (CTRI) Rajahmundry.