

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2089  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013  
TOBACCO TRADE  
Abdulrahman Shri ;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Tobacco Board has conducted any analysis of the number of buyers for Indian Virginia tobacco at its auction point;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that farmers get more choices of buyers to sell their produce;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to invite foreign buyers and companies to help Indian tobacco farmers; and
- (d) the measures being initiated to ensure that the existing monopolies are reduced in the tobacco sector to help the farmers?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a & b) Yes, Madam. During 2011-12 crop season, 23 exporters, 74 Dealers and 2 Manufacturers participated in the auctions who purchased a quantity of 36%, 8.61% and 66.39% respectively. Various measures are undertaken on a continuous basis to enhance exports like mounting trade delegations, participating in foreign exhibitions, improving product, reducing pesticide residues etc so as to increase demand for Indian Tobacco.
- (c) The participation of foreign buyers & companies in the Indian tobacco sector is governed by the extant FDI Policy of the Government.
- (d) The Indian Tobacco Association (ITA) a body of the Indian Manufacturers, Exporters and Traders is being continuously persuaded to increase the number of buyers on the Auction Platforms and the result is the buoyant market trend in the Auction Platforms of Tobacco Board where the farmer's tobacco is marketed.