

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3237
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
RELIEF FOR TOBACCO CULTIVATORS
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Tobacco Board to help the tobacco growers/farmers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the occupational hazards of tobacco growers/farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of the Flu Cured Virginia tobacco and to safeguard the interests of the tobacco growers in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) Madam, the Tobacco Board has taken various steps to help the FCV tobacco growers in the country during last 3 years. Board has provided all necessary extension and development activities by extending financial subsidies for getting better quality and productivity, provided necessary agri inputs including fertilizers to FCV tobacco growers, arranged input loans at subsidised rates to all FCV tobacco growers, provided financial relief to FCV tobacco growers in case of crop damage due to natural calamities from time to time. Tobacco Board has also created a grower welfare fund to assist FCV tobacco growers in the event of growers death and for children education, girl child marriage and treatment for major illness etc.
- (b) Department of Commerce has not conducted any study regarding the occupational hazards of tobacco growers/ farmers in recent times.
- (c & d) Does not arise.
- (e) To boost the export of the FCV tobacco Board participates and assist exporters to participate in international tobacco exhibitions and fairs, releases advertisement in international tobacco magazines, sends publicity material to the importing organizations, organizes buyer sellers meet, trade delegations seminars on tobacco. Tobacco Board is regulating the production of FCV tobacco based on market dynamics, implementing various schemes for improving quality and productivity of tobacco, provides timely inputs to farmers and promoting development of new varieties of seeds for safeguarding the interests of tobacco growers. Tobacco Board remains in touch with various international organizations keeping in view of new developments in tobacco sector and adopt policies accordingly in the interest of tobacco growers.