

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:451
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013
ALTERNATIVE CROPS TO TOBACCO
Bali Ram Dr.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken into account various problems being faced by the tobacco growers and related industries in view of the ban on several tobacco products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage alternative crops to tobacco to improve the situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): The Government is sensitised about the problems being faced by tobacco growers and related industries. It is in regular dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture to work out alternative strategies for tobacco growers. During the 11th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India had supported the Pilot project on alternative cropping system to tobacco growing that was initiated with support of Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), in five agro-ecological zones of the country.

Consultations have also been held with major tobacco producing states to encourage alternative crops to tobacco.