

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2179  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014  
ALTERNATIVES FOR TOBACCO GROWERS FARMERS  
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the hardships being faced by the tobacco growers and workers as a consequence of various tobacco control programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of economically viable alternatives for livelihood of tobacco growers/farmers across the country? ANSWER

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to c): Madam, the increasing Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco exports from India indicates that there is no significant effect on FCV tobacco growers. However, India is a signatory to WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) whereby there is an obligation to implement the provisions of FCTC in India to reduce the consumption of tobacco. The Government is responsible for promotion of appropriate economically viable alternatives for tobacco growers, workers, whose livelihoods are affected as a consequence of tobacco control programmes. In view of the same, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provided support to Central Tobacco Research Institute(CTRI), Ministry of Agriculture, for launching a pilot project on Alternative crops to tobacco in different Agro-Ecological zones of the country. Tobacco Board, a statutory body under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce has also provided special relief to Flue Cured Virginia tobacco growers in case of damage to their barns/ crops due to cyclones or untimely rain/drought in 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 , 2011, 2012 and 2013.