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Title: Need to ensure that tobacco growers get remunerative prices for their produce – Laid.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR) : The pricing of tobacco to some extent depends on the cost of cultivation, amount of production and the crop of each year. Depending on the demand and supply for tobacco, Government fixes a particular amount of crop to be produced every year. However, I am constrained to note that the excess and unauthorized crop is increasing year after year. In the last 10 years the excess production was to a tune of 250 million Kgs. During the year 2001-02 permission was given for production of 38000 million Kgs in Karnataka where as the actual production was 58,000 million Kgs. Due to this, the rate of tobacco during this year has sharply fallen to Rs. 38/- per Kg as compared to Rs. 58/- per Kg on an average in 2001.

Due to the excess and unauthorised crop, the tobacco stock gets piled up and the traders and authorised farmers suffer huge losses.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce to initiate necessary steps to control and prevent the excess and unauthorized crop and to protect the genuine traders and farmers.