

Saroop Singh. Appropriate action, under the law as warranted by the result of investigations, will be taken.

[English]

**Minimum support price for tobacco**

\*564. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum support price for tobacco to be paid to the growers during the current season as decided by Government and the corresponding figures for the last year; and

(b) whether the increase in the cost of cultivation was taken into consideration while fixing minimum support price for tobacco ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) A statement is given below

(b) Yes, Sir. The Minimum Support Price was fixed after taking into consideration all relevant factors including cost of cultivation on the recommendations of the Commission for agriculture Costs and Prices.

**Statement**

The Minimum Support Price for VFC Tobacco fixed during 1986 marketing season in Andhra Pradesh by the Government are as follows :—

(i) F2 Grade (Revised specifications) grown in black soil.	Rs. per Kg. 11.15
(ii) L2 Grade grown in light soils	12.00

The prices fixed in 1986 are the same as fixed in 1985.

The prices for other grades of VFC Tobacco during 1986 have also been kept at the level of 1985.

**Growth in Gross National Product**

\*565. SHRI D. N. REDDY : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Gross National Product increased over the previous year by 9.9 per cent in 1975-76, by 8.7 per cent in 1977-78, by 7.5 per cent in 1980-81 and by 5 per cent in 1985-86; and

(b) if so, the reason for lower increase in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Gross national product at 1970-71 prices increased by 9.9 per cent in 1975-76, 8.7 per cent in 1977-78 and by 7.5 per cent in 1980-81. Estimates of growth rate in 1985-86 have not yet been made by the Central Statistical Organisation. However, on the basis of available information regarding production trends, in the Economic Survey for 1985-86 growth rate for the year is anticipated to be between 4.5 and 5.0 per cent. The relatively high growth rates in 1975-76, 1977-78, and 1980-81 reflected recovery from sharp decline in agricultural production in the immediately preceding year due to drought. The agricultural production in 1974-75, 1976-77 and 1979-80 had declined by 3.2 per cent, 7 per cent and 15.2 per cent respectively.

**Structural changes in Life insurance policies for mass participation**

\*568. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring some structural changes in life insurance policies in order to encourage mass participation for good return in old age and also to have good medical care in the old age;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to have the matter examined by an Expert Committee to go into details and suggest some concrete proposal in this regard, as is being done in a number of foreign countries where the people's participation is increasing, to insure them for better life in old age ?