

**Patronage to tobacco growers**

6312. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made to Government to extend similar patronage to tobacco growers of the country as is prevalent in other tobacco growing countries around the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure that Indian tobacco growers are not at disadvantage when compared to foreign tobacco growers; and

(d) the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Tobacco Board has been taking the following steps for the benefit of tobacco growers:

(1) Various schemes are being implemented for improving yield and quality of FCV tobacco and reducing cost of production so as to make Indian tobacco more competitive in international markets.

(2) Tie up with Banks is being arranged for supply of credit for tobacco cultivation and curing.

(3) Internal marketing system for FCV tobacco was improved with the introduction of auction sale. This ensures correct weighment and classification, competitive prices and prompt payment of sale proceeds to the growers.

(4) Board plans the FCV tobacco crop size so as to match demand and supply with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the growers.

**Studies by tobacco research institute**

6313. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Tobacco Research Institutes under your Ministry have studied the possibility of raising appropriate tobacco crop in black soils in West and East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that tobacco was extensively cultivated in area with black cotton soil in upland West and East Godavari district till recently;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for abandoning such areas from tobacco cultivation; and

(d) whether any steps would be taken to protect tobacco farmers of that area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Central Tobacco Research Institute (under Ministry of Agriculture) has been conducted studies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Tobacco cultivation has not been abandoned. However, cultivation of FCV tobacco has been reduced in 1993-94 compared to 1992-93 due to following reasons;

(1) Glut situation in world markets.  
(2) Uncertainties regarding Russian market.

(3) Large carrystock with Indian traders.

(4) Near stagnant domestic demand.

(d) FCV tobacco farmers were advised to take up alternative crops.

**Identification of tribal farmers for tobacco cultivation**

6314. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

identify tribal farmers in West and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh to take up tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of schemes under implementation in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Tobacco Board has been implementing various schemes for increasing yield and quality of FCV tobacco, improvement of curing facilities and training of by farmers etc.

There are 107 tribal growers of FCV tobacco in East and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh. During 1993-94, 91 such growers were provided subsidy assistance of Rs. 59,930|.

#### **Problems of tobacco growers**

**6315. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to call a meeting of Members of Parliament from tobacco growing States to evolve a policy to solve immediate problems of tobacco growers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an indirect move to curb tobacco cultivation; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c) The Tobacco Board under the Ministry of Commerce regulates the production of only FCV tobacco based on the projected demand for domestic consumption and exports. The crop authorisation fluctuates on the basis of the demand situation. The Tobacco Board, on which three Members of Parliament from tobacco growing states are also represented, had decided to reduce the FCV tobacco crop authorised in

Andhra Pradesh during 1993-94 season as compared to 1992-93, because of the following reasons:—

(1) Glut situation in world markets.

(2) Uncertainty regarding Russian exports.

(3) Large carry over stocks from previous year's crop.

(4) Near stagnation of domestic requirements.

#### **Wage revision of Indian Airlines and Air India employees.**

**6316. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of wage revision of Indian Airlines and Air India employees is pending before any Tribunal;

(b) if so, how long will it take to decide this issue;

(c) whether the proceedings before such Tribunal will continue after the repeal of the Air Corporation Act; and

(d) if so, under what law?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):** (a) Yes, Sir. The dispute relating to the wage structure and other matters concerning the employees of Air India and Indian Airlines was referred to the National Industrial Tribunal on 7.12.1990 for adjudication.

(b) It is not possible to indicate at this stage the likely time it will take for the Tribunal to give its award.

(c) and (d) The matter is under examination.

#### **National Industrial Tribunal for Air India and Indian Airlines**

**6317. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed National Indust-