

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Export of Tobacco to Algeria**

\*301. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA : †

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2959 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2000, and state:

(a) whether Government/Tobacco Board have intervened to settle the matter between M/s Best India Tobacco Suppliers and M/s SNTA;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether tobacco exports have been taking place since 2000 onwards without any regard to the settlement of discontinued imports of tobacco by M/s SNTA of Algeria from India: and

(d) if so, the details of tobacco exports that have taken place during the last three years including the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The dispute between M/s Best India Tobacco (P) Ltd., Guntur, and M/S SNTA, Algeria relates to a contract signed between M/s SNTA and three Indian tobacco exporters in 1991 for supply of 3500 tonnes of tobacco over a three-year period. The dispute centres on a claim preferred by M/s SNTA for weight loss compensation of 230 tonnes of tobacco on account of insect infestation. Although this is essentially a commercial dispute between two companies, Government of India has acted to encourage a mutually satisfactory conclusion to this dispute. The Indian exporter has been directed to settle the matter with the Algerian party, with the Tobacco Board strictly playing the role of facilitator. A delegation led by Chairman, Tobacco Board, to Algeria in February 2000, had also made an attempt to help in settling this dispute. However, the dispute remains unresolved till date.

(c) and (d) M/s SNTA, which is the Algerian Government tobacco monopoly, had discontinued import of tobacco from India since 1994. According to data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, the

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† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata.

total tobacco export to Algeria over the period 1995-2000 was nil. In the period 2000-2001, non-Flue Cured Virginia tobacco has been exported in small quantities to Algeria. The details of tobacco export to Algeria over the past four years are as follows:

| Year                       | Quantity (Tons) | Value in Rs. Crores |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1998-1999.                 | NIL             | NIL                 |
| 1999-2000                  | NIL             | NIL                 |
| 2000-2001                  | 500             | 2.12                |
| 2001-2002 (till July 2001) | 479.36*         | 2.13*               |

(\*) Provisional Estimates

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Sir, the hon. Minister in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2959, on August 21, 2000... *(Interruptions)* Sir, in this regard. I would like to ask the hon. Minister... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI: Sir, this is my maiden answer and I would request the House to please give me a chance,... *(Interruptions)*... \*MM ^I it i) i I am answering. ... *(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is a matter of dispute between two commercial companies in which.... *(Interruptions)* This is not a dispute between the Government and... *(Interruptions)*...

... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned till 12 O' clock.

The House then adjourned at forty-five minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

#### National Tourism Policy

\*302. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001, and state:

(a) whether a Conference of State Tourism Ministers to discuss the draft National Tourism Policy was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the decisions arrived at the Conference: and