

Component	Scale of Assistance to Exporters
	and Organic certificate per exporter per year. In case of hiring independent stall, 50% of the cost subject to a ceiling of ₹ 1 lakh per exporter per year.
Establishment of common infrastructure facilities for processing – Spices Parks.	Board is establishing Spices Parks in major production and trading centres of spices. Spices Park is a common Centre for processing and value addition of Spices and Spice products in major production/market center which offers the processing facilities at par with the international standards. At present establishment of 6 spices park have been completed and 2 are under construction.  The basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board will also develop other common infrastructure facilities like the Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting and Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park.  After establishing the common infrastructure facilities in the park, Board lease out the available land to registered spices exporters to set up their own processing units so that exporters can make a direct link with the farmers which will ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw material eliminating the intermediaries in the supply chain which will benefit both farmers and exporters.
Establishment of quality evaluation laboratories	Board has established quality evaluation laboratories in Cochin, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guntur and Tuticorin. The establishment of the Quality Evaluation Lab at Kolkatta and Kandla are in progress. The Laboratories are providing analytical services to all the stake holders of Indian Spice Industry. It also undertakes analysis of export consignment samples under the mandatory inspection and certification by Spices Board. It has facilities to analyze various physical, chemical and microbial parameters including pesticide residues, aflatoxin, heavy metals and contaminants/adulterant artificial dyes in spices and spice products.

#### No taker of low and medium tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

185. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are no takers of low and medium grade tobacco from farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (b) whether Government proposes to permit global players to directly take part in the tobacco auction and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for arranging market intervention by the Tobacco Board to provide succour to the tobacco growers and also to avoid distress sale of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) It is not true that there are no takers for medium and low grade tobacco on Auction Platforms. However, the pace of procurement of these grades of tobacco has been slow during the current season.

(b) Reserve Bank of India's Foreign Exchange Department, Mumbai *vide* their Lr. No. RBI/2015-16/116, A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 2 dated 3rd July 2015 has clarified that the Foreign Direct Investment is prohibited in Manufacturing of Cigars, Cheroots, Cigarillos and Cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes. Foreign Direct Investment in other activities relating to these products including wholesale cash and carry, retail trading etc. shall be governed by the sectoral restrictions laid down in the FDI Policy framed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and in the Schedule 1 of Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulation, 2000 as amended from time to time.

(c) After a series of meetings with all concerned stakeholders, lately, the pace of auctions and price realizations have improved. Currently, there is no move to undertake market intervention activities through the Tobacco Board.

#### **Approval of interest subvention scheme**

186. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Interest Subvention Scheme for some select sectors has been approved by Government, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) what are details of other steps and stimulus package taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Interest Subvention Scheme for some select sectors is under consideration of the Government of India.