

Denial of permission to cotton exports

*115. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to permit further cotton exports during the current year, even as pressure is mounting from some States to allow fresh registrations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far including the request received from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) There is no such decision as on date. Under the present Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-2020, cotton is freely exportable and there is no registration requirement for export of cotton as on date. No request has been received from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to allow fresh registration of exports.

**Increase in area under fire and flu
cured tobacco in A.P.**

*116. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demand of tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh for an increase in the area under Fire cured tobacco and Flu cured tobacco;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are contemplated since there is a steep fall in tobacco production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Commerce has not received any specific proposal for increasing the area under Fire and Flue Cured Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. The Tobacco Board established under an Act of Parliament in the year 1975 regulates only Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco as per the mandate given by the Section 8(1) (a) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. One of the important functions of the Tobacco Board is regulating the production and curing of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco having regard to various factors *inter-alia* including the demand for Virginia tobacco in India and abroad, the marketability of different types of Virginia Tobacco etc., so as to match with the demand and to avoid excess production and market glut and thereby ensure remunerative prices to the tobacco growers.