

Based on the demand projected, the Board evolves the production strategy and fixes crop targets area-wise every year for different soil regions in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka taking into consideration various factors specified in clause (a) of sub section (2) of section 8 of Tobacco Board Act, 1975 like the demand for Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco in India and abroad and the marketability of different tobaccos etc.. The views of tobacco growers and growers' associations is also considered while fixing the crop size.

(c) During the last year *i.e.* crop season 2014-15, due to surplus global production including that in India, subdued demand for FCV Tobacco in the domestic and international markets, low grade crops due to bad weather etc., there was large scale distress among farmers of Andhra Pradesh requiring Government to intervene and provide one time compensation package. To avert, recurrence of such event again this year and after factoring in the overall market dynamics and the fact that India is a signatory to Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which entails demand and supply reduction strategies, the Tobacco Board has reduced crop size from 172 million kg (2014-15) to 120 million kg for Andhra Pradesh crop season 2015-16 in the wider interest of better realisation to the growers.

Considering heat wave as a natural calamity

*117. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 2,000 people died during the last summer due to heat wave and majority of them are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of deaths;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been demands to treat heat wave as natural calamity like floods, droughts, etc.; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not considering heat wave as a natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs does not maintain the information relating to the number of deaths which occur in various States of the country due to heat wave.

However, as per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, loss of human lives reported due to heat wave during 2015 is 1369 and 541 respectively.

(c) and (d) The issue of inclusion of any disaster in the list of notified natural disasters has been considered by the successive Finance Commissions set up under

the clause (1) of article 280 of the constitution from time-to-time. The 14th Finance Commission, had *inter-alia* considered the proposal for inclusion of heat wave but the same was not included in the Centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). However, considering the need for flexibility in regard to State-specific disasters, the 14th Finance Commission has recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/NDRF, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the annual fund allocation of the SDRF subject to fulfillment of certain prescribed conditions and norms.

Decline in rate of employment

*118. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of employment in the country has declined in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by Government to generate more employment in the country particularly among marginal sections of the society including those belonging to the reserved categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations. Employment generation has also been one of the most important priorities of the Government. Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment trends are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey (NSS) Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. According to the last 3 surveys, the workforce grew from 45.91 crore in 2004-05 to 46.55 crore persons in 2009-10 and to 47.41 crore persons in 2011-12 registering a growth of 86 lakh workers in 3 years. The sector-wise employment is given below:-

(₹ in crore persons)

Workforce by Major Sector	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
Agriculture and Allied	26.83	24.74	23.18
Industry	8.35	10.00	11.50