

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.644
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY, 2018

TOBACCO FARMERS' DISTRESS

644. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ऋदुशुआओ एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãã"ããè be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past several farmers cultivating tobacco have committed suicide due to low price, less demand and several other issues, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any representation on tobacco farmers distress has come to the notice of the Government particularly from the tobacco growing areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has devised any policy to address their problems, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any long term solution in place to address their problems, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

ऋदुशुआओ एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãã"ããÈ½ã ½ãñâ Åã•¾ã ½ãã"ããè (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Department of Commerce has not received any representation/suicide information due to low price, less demand and several other issues. Rather, response of the traders in recently concluded auction for sale of 2016-17 Flue cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in the state of Andhra Pradesh has been encouraging. The average price per kilo gram realized was higher by 15% over the last year. Even, in the current ongoing auction in the state of Karnataka crop season 2017, as on 31.01.2018, the average price are given to growers is higher by Rs.8.93/- per kilo gram over the last year for the corresponding volume.

Tobacco Board, in collaboration with other organizations viz. State Government, Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), is implementing various extension and developmental schemes for improvement of productivity and quality of Indian FCV Tobacco to make it more competitive in the international market. Financial assistance is extended to the registered FCV tobacco growers by the Tobacco Board under its various schemes/components like farm mechanization, improvement of yield and quality of tobacco, improvement of curing practices of post harvest product management elimination of non tobacco related material.