

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1940**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY, 2019**

**REDUCTION IN TOBACCO PRODUCTION**

1940. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Tobacco Board to reduce tobacco production in compliance with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests recommendations in its 285th report, on “Effects of Tobacco Curing on Environment & Forest”;
- (b) whether any notice/circular has been issued for the same; and
- (c) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons for the same?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ( श्री पीयूष गोयल )  
**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

- (a) The Tobacco Board has taken the following steps to reduce Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco production
  - i) The Board had resolved that there shall be a gradual phase out of tobacco cultivation. The reduction shall be gradual and uniform in both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka without affecting the farmers’ interests.
  - ii) Tobacco Board is not granting registration to new growers and not issuing any licenses for construction of new barns, creating additional curing infrastructure and no expanding FCV tobacco cultivation in new areas and thereby restricting horizontal expansion of tobacco.
  - iii) Board has been advising the bankers and co-operative societies not finance for unauthorised construction of barns/unauthorised cultivation by registered growers.
  - iv) To discourage excess and unauthorized production, Government of India, under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, permits sale of excess and unauthorized tobacco on the auction platform subject to levy of penalties.
  - v) Tobacco Board is working continuously in collaboration with the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) to provide economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing farmers.

- vi) Tobacco Board in co-ordination with State Agricultural Department of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is creating awareness about the scheme of Crop Diversification Programmes (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (R.K.V.Y) among the FCV tobacco growers for shifting to alternative crops.
- (b) & (c) Every year, Board lays down the production policy and fixes crop size for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka separately. As per the production policy, Tobacco Board issues a circular to the field staff in both states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka separately on registration of Virginia Tobacco growers and barn operators, soil region wise production quotas to be authorised per licenced barn along with instructions on various steps to be taken to regulate the production to the crop size fixed by the Board and control excess and unauthorised production.

Tobacco Board undertakes various production regulation measures through, group meetings in the villages, mass contact programmes, ,electronic/news media, distribution of pamphlets, in the major tobacco growing villages to regulate production and to prevent excess/unauthorized production of FCV tobacco.

Tobacco Board also issues a circular to the Field Staff to organize awareness meetings to promote cultivation of alternative crops to FCV tobacco.

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