

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3272**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023

**ADVERSE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO FARMING**

3272. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state;

- (a) the details of cultivated area of tobacco crop along with its annual production in the country at present;
- (b) the details of major tobacco producing States in the country;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that production related health hazards from tobacco are a matter of serious concern in the country and millions of tobacco farmers, tobacco farm-workers and bidi workers are ignorant about adverse health consequences they face;
- (d) whether any studies have been carried out regarding alternative crops to tobacco, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is proposing to have alternate lucrative crop proposal to help shift away from tobacco farming, if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be proposed; and
- (f) whether the Government is aware that there is an urgent need for separate inter-ministerial team to study and create policy to reduce tobacco production in next ten years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) & (b) The area and production of tobacco, as per latest year for which data is available i.e. 2020-21, is estimated at 357.16 thousand hectares and 755.25

thousand tonnes, respectively. The major tobacco producing states in the country are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Bihar.

(c) As per Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, tobacco growing in the field or in an uncured state is called green tobacco. This is toxic when in prolonged direct contact with the skin. Workers engaged in tobacco cultivation suffer from an occupational illness known as green tobacco sickness (GTS). Further, as per Monograph on Bidi Smoking and Public Health, 2008, Bidi rollers handle tobacco flakes and inhale tobacco dust and volatile components of tobacco in their work environment (often their homes) and are at risk for genotoxic hazards.

(d) The ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), has carried out studies using various combinations of mono-cropping and inter-cropping patterns on different soil types. Accordingly, the alternative crops / cropping system options identified for various states are given below:

<b>State</b>	<b>Crops / Cropping Systems Identified</b>
Tamil Nadu	. Annual moringa + Chilli . Annual moringa + Onion . Maize - Sunflower
West Bengal	Potato, Maize, Wheat and Mustard
Karnataka	. Sugarcane (irrigated conditions) . Soybean – Sorghum . Groundnut – Sorghum
Andhra Pradesh	. Maize - Sunflower . Maize – Blackgram . Maize – Chickpea
Gujarat	. Castor – Pearl millet . Cotton – Groundnut . Pearl millet – Rajma – Pearl millet

(e) and (f) The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) had been implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), as ongoing sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2015-16 onwards to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to alternative crops / cropping systems in tobacco growing states. An amount of Rs. 10 crore for CDP for replacing tobacco farming with alternate crops/cropping system) has been earmarked for implementation of the programme during 2023-24. CDP has been merged with Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Cafeteria Scheme from 2022-23.

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