

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2651
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2021

TOBACCO FARMERS

2651. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has failed to provide remunerative prices to Tobacco farmers of the country while the cost of production has gone up rapidly and prices of crops have gone down drastically since 2019 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether farmers are suffering from losses on account of non-remunerative prices of tobacco; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) & (b): Tobacco Board ensures the fair and remunerative prices to FCV Tobacco farmers by fixing Minimum Guarantee Indicative Price (MGIP) in consultation with FCV Tobacco farmers and Traders. The FCV Tobacco production is mainly concentrated in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In the year 2019-20, the price realization of the FCV farmers was above the MGIP, despite the unseasonal rain in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and COVID pandemic.

(c): Tobacco Board conducts e-auctions for sale of FCV tobacco on the designated auction platforms for encouraging competition among the traders to have better price discovery. Further, in order to ensure better returns to the farmers, Tobacco Board conducts various yield and quality upgradation activities like, facilitating supply of essential inputs for production of quality tobacco viz., seed, fertilizers etc., energy conservation measures for reducing the wood

fuel usage in tobacco curing, field visits with scientists from Central Tobacco Research Institute for technical advisory services, etc.
