

of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under

	(Million Kgs)	
	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
1994-95	25 00	82 00
1995-96	25 24*	-**

* Crop size of virginia tobacco fixed by the Tobacco Board

** Crop size of virginia tobacco yet to be fixed by the Tobacco Board

(b) The estimated production of virginia tobacco in some of the major tobacco production countries during 1994-95 are given below Data of production for the year 1995-96 is not available

	Country	(Million kg)
1	China	2688
2	Zimbabwe	171
3	USA	424
4	Philippines	39
5	Brazil	336
6	Argentina	78

(Source USDA December 94 - January '95)

(c) Steps taken by the Tobacco Board to ensure better prices to the farmers include, *inter-alia*

- (i) Planning and regulation of production of tobacco to match demand and supply
- (ii) Implementing various developmental and extension schemes to improve the quality and yield of tobacco
- (iii) conducting auctions to ensure accurate weighment, classification and competitive prices,
- (iv) negotiating with tobacco trade for fixation of Minimum Guaranteed Price for Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco, and
- (v) advising farmers through training programmes/meetings/publicity to adopt improved varieties and package of practices recommended by the Central Tobacco Research Institute

Export of Dyestuffe

6460 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the countries where the dyestuffs are in good demand, and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dyestuffs and create new market for its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Countries where the dyestuffs are in good demand are Bangladesh, Belgium, China Taipei, France, Germany, Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea Netherlands, Singapore, Spam, Switzerland, Thailand U K and USA

(b) Dyestuff is identified as an Extreme Focus Group of Items The steps taken by the Government in this regard include liberalisation of the policy and procedures, provision of market development assistance and other promotional measures through the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetic Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), including for exploration of new markets

[Translation]

Investment in Nicaragua

6461 SHRI RAMPAL SINGH
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Nicaragua has invited India to make investment in their country,

(b) if so, the areas for which offers to make investment has been made, and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) During a recent visit of H E Ernesto Leal Sanchez, Minister of External Relations of Nicaragua to India, he invited Indian industrialists to invest in his country The areas indicated for investment included telecommunications, tourism, timber, transportation sea food, agro industry, mining and energy

(c) Government welcomes and encourages such investments which are governed by the policy on overseas investments

Import of Sugar by STC and MMTTC

6462 DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd had made deals in the international market during 1995 for supply of sugar in June and July through forward contracts,