

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2418
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
INDO RUSSIAN TRADE REGARDING TOBACCO
BHUMA NAGI REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether Russia has agreed to purchase Indian tobacco during the recent Indo-Russian trade talks held in Delhi, in January, 2000;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and (
 - (c) the other decisions taken for diversifying and expanding bilateral trade in hi-tech items?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) During the 6th Session of Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (WGTEC) Govt. of India requested the Russian side to allocate sufficient rupee funds to Russian cigarette factories on credit terms to enable them to purchase Indian tobacco. The Russian side agreed to consider the proposal expeditiously. It was also agreed that an Indian delegation would visit Russia shortly to pursue the matter and to explore opportunities for greater cooperation between the tobacco industries of the two countries.

During this Session both sides agreed to take necessary steps for diversification of bilateral trade especially in high quality and hi-tech items. The relaxation of value addition norms by Govt. of India for goods exported under the rupee debt repayment regime has created a favourable environment for export of hi-tech items from India.