

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1436
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
TOBACCO AUCTION SITES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the Tobacco Board has delayed in opening of auction sites for purchase of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Tobacco Board to find out new markets for the export of tobacco from Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether the Government have given any assurance to farmers that a minimum amount of stock would be lifted to ensure fair prices;
and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

a) & b) Auctions in Andhra Pradesh commenced on 22.2.2000, a date decided after consultation with the representatives of Indian Tobacco Association and the tobacco trade.

c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) As the estimated production is expected to be around 145 M. Kgs. Against authorised crop of 101.19 M. Kgs for the crop season 1999-2000 in Andhra Pradesh, it is difficult to give any assurance to farmers for lifting of their stock or remunerative realisation in the ensuing auction season.