

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:977
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
UNAUTHORISED PRODUCTS OF FCV TOBACCO
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

- (a) whether FCV Tobacco in the country is being produced over and above the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board during 2006-07;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to help the tobacco growers in the country and fix minimum guaranteed price of tobacco; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The crop size for Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco fixed for 2006-07 crop season is 242.4 million kgs inclusive of 10% quantity as the nature's bounty. Plantations in Andhra Pradesh are in progress and it is not possible to assess the estimated crop. The auctions are in progress in Karnataka.

(c)&(d) The minimum guaranteed price (MGP) is an average price assured by the trade to the farmers and is purely voluntary. The trade has stopped announcing the MGP. The concept has lost its relevance as in spite of increase in production growers are getting much higher prices.