

**Title:** Need to ensure remunerative price to tobacco growers for their produce - Laid.

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (PARVATHIPURAM) : The Minimum Support Price for tobacco is fixed by Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). Even though there are about 20 varieties of tobacco cultivated in India, the Commission fixes the MSP for only the FCV variety tobacco. Further, it also happens that the MSP fixed is much lower than the prevailing market prices. Generally, the difference between the market price and MSP is about 40%. This causes a lot of hardships to the growers. Besides MPS, there is Minimum Guarantee Price in operation. MGP is fixed by the Tobacco Board. The MGP does not have a statutory validity. Because of this the growers are put to lot of troubles.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to advise CACP to hold consultations with the growers, traders and other involved in the tobacco production and also Tobacco Board before fixing the MSP and ensure that MSP is more remunerative.