

Tobacco Board to re-examine penalty move

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The Tobacco Board of India has promised to examine the possibility of withdrawing penalties imposed on tobacco farmers who have sold only 50% or less of their stipulated quota in auctions during 2017.

It has promised to table the issue for discussion at the meeting of the Registration Committee for Growers which would be convened shortly.

This assurance follows an intervention by MP for Mysuru Pratap Simha, who took exception to the decision of the board to levy penalties on farmers who sold lower quantities of their produce. In a letter to the board chairman Manoj Dwivedi, Mr. Simha had said that the decision to impose penalties was unwarranted and unrealistic.

He had said that a large number of farmers from Mysuru district – which is one of the prime tobacco-growing areas – have been approaching him, complaining about the fines imposed by the board. He said no such penalty was imposed during the previous two years and farmers have been cultivating the crop with great difficulty in spite of three consecutive drought years.

Mr. Dwivedi said the penalties imposed on farmers was part of crop regulatory measure to bring discipline among cultivators. However, the issue would be re-examined, he said, pointing out that for the convenience of farmers, officers have been instructed to renew the registrations of farmers in this category.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/tobacco-board-to-re-examine-penalty-move/article24109718.ece>