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KARNATAKA

Discrimination alleged

February 24, 2015 12:00 am | Updated 05:46 am IST - MYSURU:

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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The Federation of Karnataka Virginia Tobacco Growers Association has accused the government of practicing discriminatory policies against cigarette tobacco.

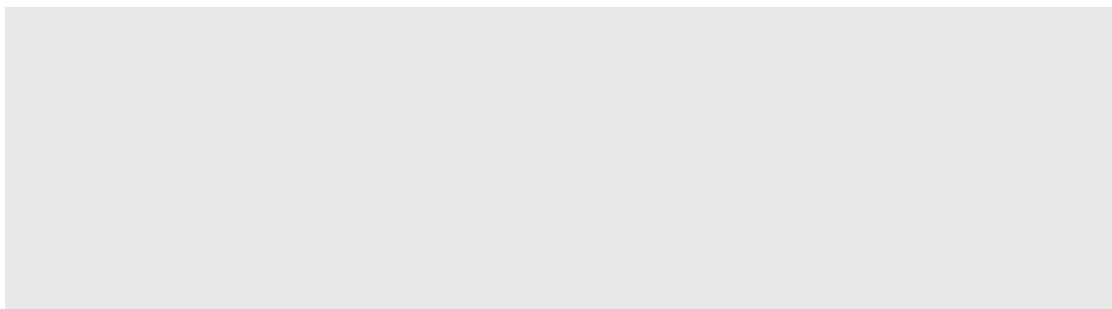
Association president B.V. Javare Gowda said that non-cigarette form of tobacco like beedis, zarda and other chewing tobacco products had not been brought under any regulatory regime.

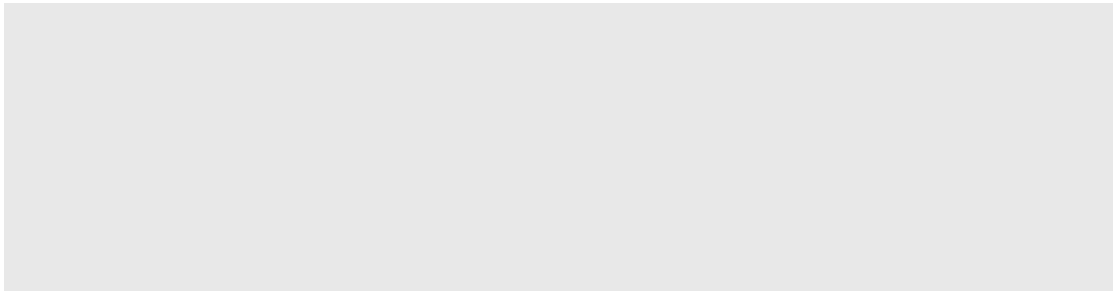
Out of the 840 million kg of tobacco grown in the country, around 310 million kg is cigarette tobacco, of which as much as 210 million kg is exported. Thus, barely 12 per cent of the total tobacco produced in the country is used in the form of cigarettes domestically.

“But, 80 per cent of the tax on tobacco is collected from cigarette,s, he said.


Non-cigarette tobacco

Out of the estimated 530 million kg of non-cigarette tobacco produced in the country, up to 90 per cent is consumed domestically. More than one lakh farmers in Karnataka are engaged in cultivation of around 100 million kg of tobacco, much of which is export quality cigarette tobacco.





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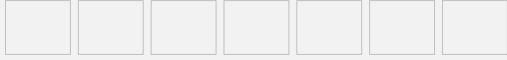
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