

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding problems being faced by Tobacco dealers-laid.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): I want to raise the voice of tobacco dealers in this august house. Tobacco dealers are basically from agricultural families and belong to rural areas. They fall under “MSME” category. Earlier there were hundreds of tobacco dealers which is now falling down to two digit due to difficult and adverse trade conditions.

They are looking for support from Tobacco board, Banks, Exporters and Ministry of Finance. If helping hand is not given to them, tobacco dealers will vanish from the Trade due to current crisis. They are requesting for following reliefs:

1. Waiver of Interest on Loans due to losses in Tobacco business in view of the Covid pandemic.
2. Reimbursement of interest overcharged by Banks on the loans availed by tobacco farmers. As per the sanction advise interest was 10-15 % per annum but the interest is charged around 12.50% to 13.50%.
3. Interest free Seed Capital assistance to them.
4. Some interest subvention Scheme for tobacco dealers.
5. Waiver of processing charges on the loans provided to tobacco dealers.

I request the Government that requests / problems of Tobacco dealers may kindly be considered favourably and necessary steps may

be taken for appropriate action in the interest of Tobacco dealers.