

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Problems of tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government the problems of tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh. There is severe damage to the FCV crop. The Mandous cyclone devastated the districts of Prakasam and Nellore of Andhra Pradesh. You might be aware of the same. Cyclone of this magnitude has arrived for the first time in 50 years. This happened three weeks ago. Farmers have incurred heavy losses. In the plantation of the tobacco crop, 53,000 hectares have been laid, out of which 25,000 hectares have been damaged. I would request the hon. Commerce Minister to appoint a team to undertake a survey of the losses the FCV crops have incurred. I am also requesting for rescheduling of crop loans with 100 per cent interest subvention for five years, and to ensure prompt payment of incentives and sanction of fresh loans by banks as it is a severe natural calamity.

I request the hon. Commerce Minister to sanction interest-free loan of Rs. 50,000 per barn by the Tobacco Board, payment of compensation of Rs. 20,000 per acre to Tobacco farmers, and also inclusion of FCV Tobacco crop in the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna*.