

Title: Need to safeguard the interests of grape growers particularly in Maharashtra-Laid.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (SANGLI) : A large area in South Maharashtra is engaged in growing of grapes. The grapes growing farmers are put to huge loss owing to depleted monsoon. The export of grapes is earning precious foreign exchange. The farming of grapes is not protected by insurance cover. The farmers therefore are hard hit. To add to their woes further, there is a proposal for withdrawal of the tax exemption on export profit that was being given to exporters under Section 70 HHC of the Income Tax Act.

Poor farmers of south Maharashtra who are engaged in farming of grapes are facing a direct threat to their survival due to Govt. action to withdraw tax exemption and no protection or insurance cover or Govt. help for water crisis owing to depleted rainfall.

There is therefore utmost need to provide suitable compensation under crop insurance scheme and restoration of tax exemption.