

Title : Need to open more tobacco auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh and commence purchase operations in early January next year in areas where the crop is harvested early.

14.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No.27, Matters under Rule 377.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Sir, tobacco production in Andhra Pradesh has increased this year. In 1985, the production was about 85 million kgs. and 23 auction platforms were set up for its quick purchase. In 2004-05, production is likely to be much more than the permitted limit of 101 million kgs. Having reduced number of auction platforms at 21 will affect the quality and weight of tobacco because of delayed purchase from lesser platforms. It may be mentioned that the demand of tobacco is more in the international market this year. I would, therefore, request the Central Government to open more auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh and the purchase of tobacco from the existing platforms in Southern light soils like Podili, Kanigiri, D.C. Palli and Kandukur started by the 10th of January, 2005 because of early harvesting of crop in those areas. I also request that framers must be given adequate remunerative price for their produce.