

Title: Problems being faced by Tobacco and Chilli growers in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Thank you, Sir. Tobacco and chilly are two important commercial crops besides groundnut in Andhra Pradesh. The prices of tobacco and chilly fell down this year and the peasants are not getting a remunerative price. A group of Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh met the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath who directed the Tobacco Board to enter into the market of tobacco and save the peasants. But, unfortunately, it did not materialise. One single monopoly house in tobacco which is purchasing 75 per cent of tobacco is playing havoc with the peasants.

We appeal to the Government to intervene immediately to explore the possibility of exports, enter into the market and to save the peasants. The Tobacco Board should be directed to make purchases of tobacco at the minimum guarantee price. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Gopal Yadav to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry. I stand corrected. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav to speak. It is because you are distracting me all the time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): No, sir. I have never distracted you.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well.

...(Interruptions)

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