

Title: Need to provide remunerative prices to the chilli growers in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, Andhra Pradesh is at the prime production of chillies. But there is a marketing problem. As the open market rate has fallen drastically during the year 2003-2004, a minimum support price was fixed at Rs. 2,700/- per quintal, which is also not remunerative. During this year, it has to be fixed at Rs. 3,000/- per quintal.

The approximate production of chillies during the present season is 60 to 70 lakh bags of 40 kgs each. This is roughly 2,40,000 MT. But so far, only 8,000 MT is marketed. This is causing much anxiety among the farmers and leading to agitational programmes.

To bail out the farmers from the crisis, the *Rythu Bandhu Pathakam* (scheme) has to be implemented effectively by the State Government wherein 75 per cent of the market price has to be provided as loan from the market yard funds at free of interest for three months.

I would request the Government of India to take the following steps immediately to save the chilli growers of Andhra Pradesh:

MARKFED & NAFED to enter the market under Market Intervention Scheme and procure the available stocks at a minimum guaranteed price of at least Rs. 2,700/- per quintal; & (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, I have to make the same observation again. In case of 'Matters Under Rule 377', the Members are expected to confine to the approved text. That is the limitation to this.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Okay, Sir.

2. Sanction of loans from *Rythu Bandhu Scheme*;

3. Opening of more Purchasing Centres;

Exemption from Purchase Tax; and

Establishment of Chilly Board at Guntur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sajjan Kumar -- absent;