

12.07 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

Title: Need to initiate appropriate measures for the benefit of chilli producing farmers of Andhra Pradesh. – Laid.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR) : Andhra Pradesh is at the prime of production of chillies. During the year, 2003-2004, there is a marketing problem. As the open market rate has fallen drastically, a minimum support price was fixed at Rs. 2700/- per Quntal, which is also not remunerative.

The Markfed has entered the market under Market Intervention scheme but it could not purchase the stocks completely from the farmers. There is a stock of 20,00,000 bags of chillies lying unsold as on 1.6.2004.

Sir, keeping in view of the problem faced by the chilli farmers, I request that Government of India to intervene and direct the NAFED to enter the market, and purchase at a minimum support price of Rs. 3000/- per Quntal and to arrange cold storage facilities through the Central Warehousing Corporation.

I request the Union Government to take following measures for benefit of Chilli producing farmers :-

1. Allotting the stocks to be stored at Central Warehousing Godowns and Market Yard Godowns.
2. Sanction of Loans from Rythu Bandu Scheme.
3. Opening of more Purchasing Centres.

4. To facilitate easy clearance from farmers the chillies may be exempted from payment of 4% purchase tax by advising the State Government as at present this is costing on an average Rs.100/- per Quintal.

*Treated as Laid on the Table.