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Title: Need to take measures to protect the interests of tobacco farmers in Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): I rise in support of the tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh and especially farmers in the Prakasam district. I would like to stress the fact that Ongole and Prakasam regions are the major tobacco producing areas in Andhra Pradesh. The conditions of tobacco farmers in my constituency is deteriorating due to inadequate Minimum Support Price for their products.

Tobacco farmers are facing a number of problems this year including the drastic cyclone 'jal' and the incessant rains that has spoilt their crops thrice. Most of the farmers are deprived of proper agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilizers at the right time. In addition to this, the low cost set by the traders will not be sufficient to meet the cost of production. The farmers are demanding Rs. 120/ Kg.

I would like to urge the Government through you and this House to take serious note of this matter and take necessary steps needed.