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Title: Need to fix Minimum Support Price in respect of different varieties of Bengal Gram and also to provide marketing facilities for the same.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): My constituency, Ongole, is situated in Prakasam district. Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh has been identified as one of the pulse growing districts under the National Food Security Mission Programme of Government of India. Tobacco farmers are cultivating Bengal Gram as an alternate crop since the Government of India is discouraging tobacco cultivation in the country.

The cost of production differs from variety to variety and hence MSP should also vary accordingly. On the contrary, prevailing MSP rates are the same for all varieties of Bengal Gram such as JG-11, KOK-2 and BOLD. The reason for the same is not known.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase duties on the import of Bengal Gram and incentives should be given to export the Bengal Gram. Further, MARKFED and NAFED should be instructed to intervene for purchase of existing stocks of Bengal Gram at Rs.4,000/- for JG-11 variety, Rs.4,500/- for KOK-2 variety and Rs.5,000/- for Bold per quintal.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rama Kishore Singh – not present.

Kunwar Harbansh Singh