

Title: Need to take necessary steps to set up Cotton and Chilli Boards with headquarters at Hyderabad and Guntur respectively in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had pointed out to the Government of India that they have been able to set up Coffee Board, Tea Board, Tobacco Board, etc., to look after these very important commercial crops. They have suggested that cotton and chilli are the two commercial crops which are very important in the country. Further, there is no Board to regulate these crops in terms of area grown, the variety grown, etc. under these crops.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had, therefore, urged the Centre to take immediate action to set up a statutory Cotton Board with headquarters at Guntur and also set up a statutory Chilli Board with headquarters at Guntur. Guntur is a centrally located place, where cotton and chilli are grown. He pointed out that setting up of these Boards will help and serve the farming community. This proposal was forwarded by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to the former Prime Minister of India on 17.11.1996.

Sir, I, therefore, urge that the Government should take immediate measures for setting up of these Boards, which will be helpful to the chilli and cotton growers of this country.