

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding shortfall in production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y. V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): The main commercial crop in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh is tobacco and the Tobacco Board this year has given permission to cultivate tobacco to the tune of 73.41 million Kgs, but farmers could produce only 64.2 million kgs in 41 hectares due to drought conditions in the district. Under SBS region, the Board has given permission to produce 43.23 million Kgs, but Board estimated the production would be to the tune of 38.9 million Kgs. Likewise, under SLS region, Board has given permission to produce 30.18 million Kgs, but farmers could produce only 25.3 million Kgs due to deficit rainfall/drought.

This year tobacco season purchases have started in the second week of this month. This year the input costs have increased exorbitantly. As a result, farmers have been forced to bear the brunt of it by way of shelling out Rs. 30,000-40,000 per barren more due to drought/deficit rainfall, increased labour cost right from ploughing to grading, attack of pests.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take remedial measures in this regard.