

**Need to address the problems being faced by cocoa growers in the country ? Laid**

**SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR (ELURU):** I like to bring to the House's attention the serious issues faced by the Cocoa farmers of Eluru Parliamentary Constituency due to lack of support mechanisms to stabilize Cocoa prices from the fluctuations of international markets. Eluru is one of the biggest contributors of Cocoa with 36000 acres of Cocoa cultivation in Andhra Pradesh producing 40% of the total crop in India. However, as of now, there are no proper mechanisms and policies in place to help the Cocoa farmers from the unstable price of Cocoa internationally. To add to it, farmers also face a challenge in accruing post-harvest processing cost. I urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to kindly look into the matter and provide a 90% subsidy in essential resources such as fermentation boxes, solar dryers and quality seeds. Additionally, the Government can formulate policies and support mechanisms aimed at stabilizing Cocoa prices and protecting farmers from international market fluctuations. Only when the farmers will be safeguarded, India will become a global leader in Cocoa production.