

Regarding problems being faced by the chilli growers in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-Laid

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY (TIRUPATI): The chilli farmers of Guntur, renowned for farming premium varieties like Teja, Byadgi, and DD Best, are facing a severe crisis. The cost of cultivation has increased to approximately ₹2.5 lakhs compared to the previous year. Chilli prices, which were around ₹22,000 per quintal last year, have dropped below ₹10,000 this season, forcing farmers to incur losses of ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 per acre.

A large number of farmers are protesting at Sattenapalli Road in Guntur Mirchi Yard, demanding a fair price for their red chilli stocks. Middlemen, in collusion with the State Government, have driven chilli prices down. Despite the Central Government's assurance of assistance under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), the Andhra Pradesh State Government has failed to deliver relief, leaving farmers in continued distress. The Andhra Pradesh State Government must address the needs of the farming community.

I urge the Minister of Agriculture and Forest Welfare to intervene immediately and ensure red chilli is purchased at ₹18,000 per quintal to provide justice and relief to the farmers.