

Regarding problems being faced by chilli growers in Telangana-Laid

SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY (KHAMMAM): Chilli cultivation is a key agricultural activity in Telangana, with the state among India's top producers. Last year, chilli was grown over 12.43 lakh hectares, yielding 48.29 lakh tones. Major growing districts include Khammam, Warangal, and Mahabubabad. However, chilli farmers face significant challenges. Pests and diseases like thrips, whiteflies, wilt, and leaf curl damage crops, while excessive pesticide use reduces effectiveness. High input costs for seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides strain finances. Market fluctuations and middlemen exploitation lead to losses and lack of storage forces distress sales, increasing post-harvest losses. Water scarcity due to erratic rainfall and poor irrigation access affects yields. Labor shortages and high wages add to costs, while mechanization remains limited. Government support, including MSP and subsidies, is often inadequate. Climate change, with unpredictable weather, further impacts yields. Adulteration and lack of quality control affect marketability, pushing farmers into debt traps. I urge the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to address these issues by improving pest management, providing subsidies, ensuring irrigation support, developing storage infrastructure, offering low-interest loans, and implementing a fair MSP, securing better livelihoods for chilli farmers in Telangana.