

Need to take comprehensive measures to safeguard the interest of aqua farmers in Andhra Pradesh in view of situation after imposition of tariff by USA? Laid

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY (TIRUPATI): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the severe crisis faced by prawn (royal variety) farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh exports nearly 70% of its prawn yield to the United States, with Tirupati district alone contributing about 1.25 lakh tonnes annually from over 28,000 acres. However, the recent imposition of a 25% import duty by the U.S. Government has disrupted exports, causing a steep price crash of ₹230 per quintal within 48 hours and financial losses of ₹50,000 to ₹80,000 per tonne. The abrupt halt in U.S. imports has left farmers unable to recover even production costs, pushing many into unmanageable debt. The crisis is further aggravated by the lack of cold storage facilities, forcing distress sales. While traders are exploring alternate markets in China and local processing units, these have not provided adequate support. I urge the Government to intervene urgently with price stabilization measures, establishment of cold storage infrastructure, and efforts to secure alternate export markets to safeguard the livelihoods of thousands of aqua farmers in the region.