

**Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for extending help to the FCV tobacco cultivators. – Laid.**

**SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR):** The State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to provide a relief of Rs. 2000 per hectare, which was affected under FCV tobacco cultivation due to unseasonal rains in Andhra Pradesh and also intervene to stabilize prices.

There was a cyclonic storm during the middle of December, 2003 which played havoc with the agricultural production. The Government of Andhra Pradesh provided relief to an extent of Rs.2000/- per hectare in respect of areas under cultivation of all crops except FCV tobacco and the FCV farmers demanded similar kind of relief from Government of India.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry of the Government of India was requested to consider favourably the following steps immediately to help the FCV tobacco farmers.

The Tobacco Board may be asked to provide a relief of Rs.2000/- per hectare in respect of area under FCV tobacco cultivation that was affected totally, due to the unseasonal rains in Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of India may take necessary steps to immediately enter the Tobacco Auction Platforms to stabilize the prices and suitable orders may be passed at the earliest.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into the demands of Tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh.