

an>

Title: Regarding concern over fall in the price of Chilli.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Sir, the chilli farmers in my constituency of Guntur are on the roads again. India is the major producer and dominant player in the world chilli market due to its superior quality. AP tops the list in the country and Guntur tops in AP with 26 per cent share as far as production of chilli is concerned.

Sir, chilli production has gone up by 40 per cent in the last one year from 1.56 lakh hectares in 2016 to 1.86 lakh hectares. Looking at the price my farmers have got last year, they have extended their crop in anticipation of getting a better price. But, the prices of bright, medium and low grade chillis have fallen steeply. Last year, the chilli farmers got Rs.14,000-15,000 per quintal, but now they are forced to sell it for just Rs.6,000 to Rs.8000 per quintal resulting in substantial losses to them. It is not just happening in AP. But, the case is the same in other chilli producing States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and a few others as well.

The second problem that the chilli farmers are facing is due to the failure of the Government of India to capitalize the market and export more chillis to other countries. It is all due to unorganized way of production, storage, marketing, R&D, etc.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Place your demand.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: In view of the same, I demand Rs.12,000 to be fixed as a Minimum Support Price for chillis. Special attention should be paid on small and marginal farmers. Cold storage facilities have to be provided exclusively for small and medium farmers. The Government of India should implement market intervention scheme and purchase chillis from farmers at Rs.12,000 per quintal. There is a need to develop new market avenues, promotion of exports, capacity building of the stakeholders, access to post harvest technology and infrastructure and also to regulate the market.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.