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Title: Need to announce remunerative price for tobacco at the time of fixation of crop size to address the problems of tobacco growers in Prakasham district of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Thank you, Madam. The demand is for fixing the price of tobacco at the same time when crop size is fixed by the Tobacco Board.

Madam, 50 per cent production of tobacco in the country comes from Andhra Pradesh, especially from Prakasam district. Every year Tobacco Board fixes crop size for forthcoming crop year and farmers produce tobacco accordingly. This year they are going to hold this meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

During the last few years, tobacco farmers are facing a lot of problems because of want of remunerative prices and rapid shrinking of crop size every year. This is because of failure of Tobacco Board, Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh in providing remunerative price. Due to this, there is a huge difference between production cost and remunerative price resulting huge losses to farmers.

The farmers have been demanding for announcing remunerative price at the time of deciding crop size itself. But, their genuine demand seems gone with the wind as nobody is listening to them.

Tobacco Board, by limiting crop size, is pressurizing farmers to stop tobacco cultivation. Farmers are willing but they are only demanding to show them viable alternative crop. But the Tobacco Board, Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh are not coming forward to help them.

The farmers are only asking for announcing remunerative price at the time of deciding crop size itself. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy.