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Title: Need to take steps to give a Minimum Support Price to the tobacco farmers.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I wish to raise an important issue regarding the problems being faced by the tobacco farmers. Tobacco is mainly grown in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. There are about 90,000 registered tobacco growers. About 900 million kilograms of tobacco is grown every year. Export quality tobacco is grown in our State of Karnataka. The farmers are now facing the problem of tobacco price. Last year the price of FCB tobacco has fallen from Rs. 150 per kilogram of leaf to Rs. 116 per kilogram. There has been a fall of 17 per cent in the price of tobacco over a period of one year and so the farmers are facing problems and they are agitating about it. In this connection I would like to submit, through you, that the Tobacco Board has to take an initiative in the matter to give a Minimum Support Price to the tobacco farmers.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : शरद त्रिपाठी जी, मैंने आपका नाम लिया था, आप उपस्थित नहीं थे। आप जल्दी से अपनी बात कहिए।