

Both are very fertile lands and are to be connected by road-cum-rail bridge as at Rajahmundry C.A.U. Both the Zila Parishads of Krishna and Guntur, all Samities and political parties have passed resolutions to that effect.

Even though some expenditure is involved, it can be recovered very soon by regular traffic between the two places which forms a ring between the two important districts. It is financially a sound proposition also, and would earn much to the Government.

Hence I request that the Rail-cum-Road bridge may be included in the next plan and executed and meanwhile steps may be taken to complete the survey, tests and other formalities. It is the most important project for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(viii) Remunerative price for tobacco.

SHRI B. N. REDDY (Miryalguda) ;
Sir, tobacco crop is the source of 1500 crores of rupees of annual income and earn Rs. 200 crores in foreign exchange to our country annually. But due to lack of domestic and external market for the produce, producers face grave situation. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, 90% Virginia Tobacco of our country is produced. But due to lack of market facilities about 75,000 ryots in 9 districts are facing alarming situation in Andhra Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No dialogue please. No interruptions.

SHRI B. N. REDDY : Last year 1.15 lakh tonnes of tobacco was produced. But there is no market for purchase of this produce. Often 50% of tobacco produce is purchased by domestic tobacco companies but they are not prepared to pay remunerative prices or even the average market price in the beginning of crop sowing. For example, if the price is Rs. 11.97 per kilo, in the season time only Rs. 8/- per kilo is paid. In this regard, Tobacco Board and STC are not helpful. They neither control tobacco company monopolies nor are prepared to purchase at remunerative price.

In this way, tobacco producers are left at the mercy of the traders. In 1981-82, 1.5 lakh tonnes of tobacco was exported but in 1985-86, export fell down to 60,400 tonnes. This is a serious situation which one of our valuable crops (commercial) is facing. So, I request the Centre to provide domestic and external market for the entire produce of tobacco at remunerative prices thereby encouraging the producers of tobacco.

12.40 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : INQUIRY ORDERED
BY THE FORMER MINISTER OF
DEFENCE INTO ALLEGED PAYMENT
OF COMMISSION BY THE SUPPLIER
TO AN INDIAN AGENT IN A
DEFENCE DEAL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, discussion under rule 193.

Shri Suresh Kurup.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, before the discussion is started, I would like to raise the procedural point. (Interruptions) Sir, I am only raising a procedural point and the point of order. Under rule 193, they are going to discuss the Defence deal and the alleged irregularities involved. The other day when we were discussing on another subject, Fairfax issue, there was also specific motion given and that was also allowed to be moved.

What I would suggest is rule 193 also allows a discussion to take place. After the whole thing is talked of, the Minister replies. My point of order is, since I have also given a notice of motion expressing concern over this episode and recommending to the Government setting up of a parliamentary probe, that should also be taken up together.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : My motion is also there. I have also given a motion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have also given a motion.