

डॉ. पेम्मासानी चंद्र शेखर
Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar



राज्य मंत्री
संचार एवं ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Minister of State for Communications
and Rural Development
Government of India

Dy. No. 1345488 MoSC/VIP/20.24

10 DEC 2024

Respected Shri. Piyush Goyal Ji,

Subject: Request for Creation of a Chilli Division within Spices Board of India and addressing the Chilli Farmers' distress in Guntur District.

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. India's chilli sector is not only critical to our agricultural economy but also holds a prominent position in our spice exports. Chillies account for approximately 34% of India's total spices exports by value, with the export of red chillies alone reaching a record \$1.5 billion in FY 2023-24. This remarkable contribution underscores the need for a dedicated institutional framework to support this vital crop.

Despite this significant role, chilli farmers, particularly those in Guntur district, continue to face severe challenges. Currently, a substantial portion of the chilli crop lies in cold storage as unremunerative market prices exacerbate the distress of farmers, many of whom are tenant farmers. These farmers grapple with rising input costs, pest infestations, and the lack of adequate post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, making their livelihoods precarious.

To address these issues comprehensively, I earnestly request your kind consideration for the creation of a Chilli Division within the Spices Board of India. Locating this division in Guntur, the "Chilli Capital of India," would be a strategic move. Guntur not only produces a significant share of India's chillies but also hosts Asia's largest chilli market, making it the ideal hub for addressing farmer grievances, promoting research, and ensuring streamlined post-harvest support.

This dedicated division could focus on key areas such as pest and disease management, export facilitation, and the establishment of modern processing and drying facilities. It would also serve as a crucial platform for promoting high-value varieties like Guntur Sannam and Teja, ensuring compliance with global quality standards and expanding market access.

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Additionally, I request your kind intervention to direct the Spices Board to take immediate measures to alleviate the current distress faced by chilli farmers in Guntur. Establishing robust quality testing labs, addressing price stabilization through market interventions, and enhancing capacity-building initiatives would go a long way in ensuring sustainable incomes for these farmers.

Your leadership and vision can provide the impetus needed to elevate India's chilli sector and secure the livelihoods of countless farmers. I am hopeful for your positive consideration of this request and stand ready to assist in any way to expedite its implementation.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar)

Shri Piyush Goyal,
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