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Title: Need to promote poultry Industry - laid.

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY (CHEVELLA): With more than Rs. 1 lakh crore contribution to GDP and consistent annual growth at 10%, Indian poultry industry, including maize and soyabean, is providing more than 20 lakh direct and nearly 50 lakh indirect employment opportunities. Secondly, India is second largest producer of eggs and third largest producer of chicken.

When poultry industry is performing well and providing employment opportunities, there were reports in media that Government of India is going to reduce customs duty on American Chicken from 100% to 30%. It was also reported in a section of media that hon. PM assured US President, during his Howdy-Modi event that he would bring down Customs Duty on poultry to 30%.

Poultry industry is a part of agri-allied activity providing employment throughout the year in rural areas. If import duty is reduced, it will break the backbone of poultry, maize and soyabean farmers because poultry is the main consumer of maize and soya.

On the one hand, hon. Prime Minister is motivating farmers to move towards non-crop activities like poultry and other livestock to double the income and reduce pressure on land and irrigation, but on the other, if Customs Duty is

reduced, it will be like a bolt from the blue on poultry farmers and the entire sector would be ruined. In view of the above, I request GOI not to

bring down Customs Duty on American chicken from the present 100%. Otherwise, it will destroy lakhs and lakhs of poultry farmers and result in collapse of entire poultry industry.