

>

Title: Regarding withdrawing MEIS benefits for spices

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET):

Hon. Chairperson, in August the DGFT issued orders to suspend the duty credits up to 7 per cent under the Merchandise Export from India scheme. The

removal of this incentive has come as a rude shock to those dependent on the spice trade for their livelihood.

This will hurt the industry which contributes up to 15 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's GDP and Lakhs of farmers in the State which is the largest producer of spices in the country. Sir, in my own state of AP, weak monsoon rains have led to lower Chili production despite an increase in sowing area.

Sir, Sudden changes cause loss of customers and contracts. Moreover, the produce is exported usually around the month of December which is after the effective date of the order. The Government must also pay heed to international factors.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government to review its decision to withdraw MEIS benefits for spices.

