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Title: Issue regarding development of agricultural produce export facilities at Vijaywada International Airport.

**SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to raise an important topic regarding the development of agriculture export facilities at Vijayawada International Airport.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is blessed with two of the major rivers in the country – the Godavari and the Krishna. Over the centuries, agriculture has developed on the fertile lands surrounding these rivers. Today, the regions in and around Vijayawada are well known for their agricultural export commodities. We have red chillies, mangoes, turmeric, tobacco and inland fisheries. All these commodities have a great export potential. In the interest of further promoting the export potential of these commodities, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority should develop agriculture export facilities at the Vijayawada International Airport as was done at the Varanasi Airport, which was operationalised very recently. Facilities like cold storage, customs clearance, phytosanitary clearance, etc., should be established at the Vijayawada Airport.

In Andhra Pradesh, the export commodities have been growing over the last few years but the agricultural commodities of the Vijayawada region are currently either transported to one of the sea port facilities in Andhra Pradesh or Vishakhapatnam Airport. So, developing export facilities at Vijayawada Airport will further boost the export growth of agricultural commodities of Andhra Pradesh. Also, such

development will facilitate easier and quicker exports of the agri commodities from the Vijayawada region.

Given the goal of doubling farmers' income, I urge the Ministry of Commerce to develop on an immediate basis an agriculture export hub at Vijayawada Airport.

Thank you.