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Title: Regarding setting up of Red Gram Board in Tandur region of Telangana.

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY (CHEVELLA) : Red Gram is the most important pulse in the country and its ability to produce high economic yields even if there is soil moisture deficit makes it vital crop in rainfed and dryland agriculture. With rich source of 23% protein, vitamins and minerals, Redgram has become an indispensable part of Indian meal and is also used as feed and fuel.

Redgram is grown in 2.25 lakh hectares in Telangana and is lifeline for the dryland farming community in Ranga Reddy district. With market preference for ‘Tandur Tur Dal’ and consistent demand for this particular ‘brand’ of Tur Dal in commodity markets, farmers are getting good price. Secondly, demand for Tandur Tur Dal is due to its unique taste, better cooking quality and enhanced keeping quality of cooked dal helps it to get even the GI tag.

Farmers, scientists, traders and public representatives have been requesting for setting up of Red Gram Board in Tandur as:

> its productivity in Tandur is 758 kg/ha — far higher than national average of 655 kg/ha.

> has immense potential for export. Tandur region is the biggest market for Redgram.

> getting support from Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University and from ICRISAT which has a mandate to conduct research on Redgram.

> helps in timely support to small and marginal farmers with credit, inputs, etc. and availability of processing plants.

In view of the above, I request Government of India to set up Redgram Board in Tandur at an early date.