

Title: Reg: Focus on Palm oil under National Oil Mission.

SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI (ELURU): The Government of India in a bid to reduce inflation dropped import duties from 49% to zero per cent causing a price crash of Fresh fruit bunches from Rs. 23000 per tonne to Rs. 13000 in just 2 months. We import 14 Million MT of edible oil. There is a strong case for National Oil Mission to focus entirely on palm oil growth in India. 'Atmanirbar Bharat' can only be achieved with oil palm for edible oil. I also would like to remind our Government's promise to double farmers income.

Rs. 1 lakh per tonne of edible oil is the minimum required to sustain cost of production locally. I request the Government to adjust import duties to maintain a consistent price of at least Rs. 1 lakh per tonne for edible oil to protect oil palm production domestically.

I beg the Government that while making policy changes, either cover the loss to the farmers or maintain import duties high enough to help farmers recover cost of cultivation. A thriving oil palm cultivation can reduce import of edible oil in less than a decade with a reasonable support from policy makers.