

ont>

Title: Need to declare Minimum Support Price for palm oil produced in the country- Laid.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR) : India's expenditure on importing edible oil was Rs.8,000 crores during 2000-01 and Rs.6,000 crores during 2001-2002. Palm oil is a major component of the edible oils, we are importing. In view of the large potential in palm oil, oil palm cultivation has been started on a large scale in the country. Andhra Pradesh accounts for 59% of total oil palm plantations in the country. However, right now there is no Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government of India for palm oil. Due to this, even though many farmers are ready to start oil palm plantations, they are not able to come forward. The market intervention scheme being implemented in Andhra Pradesh could not given confidence to the farmers for getting remunerative prices.

If Minimum Support Price is given to oil palm, the oil palm plantations will increase tremendously and we can reduce the import bill on the edible oils.

I request Hon. Minister for Agriculture to consider the proposal and to take an early decision in this regard.