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Title : Need to check import of duty free Vanaspati from neighbouring Countries with a view to protect the interest of indigenous industry in the Country.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDHANA): Sir, The Government has proposed to increase custom duty from 30% to 80% on vanaspati in order to protect the Vanaspati Industry. Sir, the said proposed increase has no meaning when already there is a policy to import vanaspati at 0% duty from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh who would like to import vanaspati from other countries at 30% or 80%. The proposed hike in custom duty does not deal with the issue of import of vanaspati at 0% duty from Sri Lanka/Nepal/Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the duty free vanaspati from Sri Lanka has resulted into closure of more than 120 units out of total of 260 units rendering thousands of workers, labourers unemployed and affecting the farmers. The remaining units are at the verge of closure and reeling under pressure having capacity utilization of 20%.

Sir, the domestic industry can be benefited only if the Government puts certain kind of check on import of duty free vanaspati from Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries.

I request the Government to look into the matter.