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Title: Need to establish a Chilli Board in Palnadu area of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the kind attention of the government regarding the dire need for establishment of Chillies Board at Painadu area of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

India is a leading producer of Chilli contributing close to 43% of world production and among Indian States, Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of Chilli i.e. upto 58%. Guntur is the major Chilli growing district in India and also biggest and largest Chilli market in Asia with an estimated annual turnover of Rs.2,500 crores. Guntur occupies such a prominent place in Chilli business.

Chilli production is around 13.5 lakh tons annually and Andhra Pradesh accounts for 7.5 lakh tons. The main importers of Chilli from India are Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia, USA, Nepal, Mexico and Bangladesh. The experts estimates at about 54% of Chillies traded from Gunter against its production.

At present the spices board is located at Kochi of Kerala State. As majority of growers and exporters of Chillies belong to Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, therefore, present location could not serve the needs of growers of Chillies and also spices board fail to protect the Chillies' farmers rights.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, for considering separating Chilli spice from Spices Board and establish Chilli Board in Palnadu area of my parliamentary constituency to serve better to the needs of the Chilli farmers of India.