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Title: Need to increase import duty on palm oil.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, as of now, palm oil is being cultivated in 1,37,000 hectares with 76,300 farmers' fields. To protect the interests of palm oil growers, the Government of India has to make amendments in subsidy policy and import policy.

Recently, FFB prices started falling from Rs.8,441 per MT to Rs.6,589 per MT since the cost of cultivation like labour cost and input cost had increased but the demand in FFB prices has decreased due to fluctuation of import duty.

Import of edible oil was brought under OGL in 1995. Presently, import duty on CPO is 2.5 per cent and oil is 10 per cent. Domestic prices of palm oil are significantly affected by cheaper imports from Malaysia and Indonesia because of which there were considerable fluctuations.

Hence, I would request the hon. Minister that there is every necessity to increase the import duty taking into consideration of palm oil growers' sustainability in Andhra Pradesh.