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Title: Regarding setting up of Turmeric Board.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD): Thank you, Madam. Turmeric is a very unique spice which is widely used in food, medicine, pharmaceuticals, dyes and cosmetics, not only in India but also in the South Asian countries, Europe, Africa, etc. Turmeric is the only spice in India which has witnessed intellectual property infringement by the USA. In the light of the increasing tensions and deadlock at the WTO meetings, I would sincerely request the Commerce Minister, through you, Madam, to set up a Turmeric Board which will be extremely helpful to speed up the process of attaining the Geographical Indication, the GI tag, which is pending for the Erode turmeric, which is under the consideration at the WTO along with other regional specific turmeric varieties.

Madam, also for turmeric the Minimum Support Price is never declared. So, the farmers are facing a huge crisis because the prices fluctuate from Rs.4,000 to Rs.15,000. So, it is a serious problem in many areas and I would sincerely request the Minister to, in building the brand value of our country, turmeric will also be a crucial factor, kindly form a Turmeric Board on the lines of Coffee and Rubber Boards.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla.