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Title:Regarding cultivation and marketing of Ginger in Telangana.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): Thank you Madam Speaker. Ginger is cultivated in an area of 5000 to 6000 acres in my constituency Zaheerabad and about 10,000 acres in whole Telangana. The major input cost involved in ginger cultivation is the seed material which costs around Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 per acre and other expenses which includes land preparation, chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc., cost another Rs. 1,00,000. So, in short the cost comes upto Rs. 2,00,000 per acre which is very expensive for small and marginal farmers. Sometimes ginger is affected by the diseases like soft rot, rhizome rot and wilt. They affect the yield tremendously and the farmers lose their complete input cost. There is no financial support from the Government Institutions like Spice Board and the National Horticultural Board even at that time to the farmers.

As on today the market price ranges between Rs. 25 and Rs. 30 per kilogram and sometimes it may fall upto Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per kilogram which is not at all economically viable to the farmers.

A Minimum Support Price should be fixed by the Government for ginger as it is fixed for rice and wheat.

The most important part that I would like to mention here is that the Spices Board is located in Kozhikode, Kerala, which is very far from Telangana State. Whenever the farmers have to buy seeds, they have to travel very far to the other State.

My request is that a Spice Board should be set up in my constituency so that it gets easier for the farmers to buy seeds. Apart from that, the facility of cold storage should be made available to store the products as well.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, through the Chair, to establish processing units which may be exported with value addition by which ginger farmers will sustain financially.