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Title: Regarding instructing the Central Board of Excise and Customs to open a chemical examination lab at Kakinada to avoid delay and to improve further imports through Kakinada Sea.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Madam Speaker, I represent Kakinada Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the prominent ports on the East Coast, which handles imports and exports of major goods. During the year 2015-16, Kakinada Port contributed Rs.1200 crore towards customs duty. Among this, Rs.400 crore collected exclusively through edible oils.

The maximum rate of Customs Duty on import of crude oils is 85 per cent, whereas for edible grade oils, it is 7.5 per cent. The local customs authorities have been extending 7.5 per cent duty to the crude oils, which are of edible grade, after following the due process. During that process, Customs authorities draw samples of the crude oil and send to the chemical labs located at Visakhapatnam, which is 150 kilometres away from Kakinada Port and getting of report is consuming much time. Some times, it is taking six months. Till that time bonds, sureties and bank guarantees are held up with Customs causing great hardships to the importers.

I would request the hon. Minister for Finance to instruct the Central Board of Excise and Customs to open a Chemical Examination Lab at Kakinada to avoid delay and to improve further imports through Kakinada Sea.