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Title : Need to set up a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric at the Lam Agricultural Research Farm of the Acharya Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh and provide necessary funds for the same.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): It is a known fact that Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh is producing large quantity of spices like turmeric & chillies which has a huge export market. In April, 2009, 40177 tonnes of spices were exported, out of which 13,500 tonnes of chillies were produced in Andhra Pradesh. Farmers of Guntur are contributing in a big way in strengthening the economy but the facilities being provided to them by the Government for production of quality seeds are not significant. There is no Research Centre or Institute for supplying quality seeds and pest-free seeds to the farmers of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The non-availability of high yielding quality seeds of chillies and turmeric is a major stumbling block in increasing the production of these products.

Under the circumstances, I would strongly urge the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, through you, to establish a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric at the Lam Agricultural Research Farm of the Acharya Ranga Agricultural University which has requisite land so that farmers of Guntur get the quality and pest-free seeds which would pave way for increased production.

Considering the huge export potential, I hope the Hon'ble Minister would accede to my above request to set up a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric and also provide funds for the Research Institute.

* Treated as laid on the Table