

Regarding need to reinstate the import duty and levy social welfare cess on Bengalgram (Chana) imported in the country-Laid

SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA): India is producing about 11.00 to 12.00 million Tons of Bengalgram (Chana) every year from the year 2019-20 i.e. more than 70% of total world production. Consumption requirement in our Country ranges from 10.00 to 10.50 million Tons per year. As such we are producing sufficient quantities of Bengalgram to meet consumption requirement. India is exporting and also importing Bengalgram every year. The present Tariff on Kabuli Chana is 30% lesser than previous Tariff and on Desi Chana is 50% lesser than previous Tariff. Prior to the year 2024 Social Welfare Surcharge (SWS) was levied on imports of Bengalgram. But after 01-05-2024 Bengalgram was exempted from the levy of SWS also. In Andhra Pradesh Bengalgram is cultivated mainly in Districts such as YSR Kadapa, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Nandyal, Prakasam and Palnadu. This season average cultivation is 3.7 Lakh Hectares. Lakhs of Tonnes of last year production are still in cold storages. Last year all the farmers sold their produce in a distress sale. Hence, I request the Government to reinstate the Import Duty and levy social welfare cess on Bengalgram and so that the farmers get a better price.

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