

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to include the Grapes Research Station in Annamalaipatti in regular centres under Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) to encourage cultivation of grapes.

**SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI):** In Tamil Nadu, grapes are cultivated in an area of 2,800 hectare out of which 2,184 hectare of land is in my Theni Parliamentary constituency.

The district of Theni accounts for a major share of grape cultivation in Tamil Nadu. To extend the cultivation of grape varieties, to encourage involvement of farmers in grape cultivation with the application of scientific methods and to increase research and development programmes, I request the Government to take appropriate action to include the Grapes Research Station in Annamalaipatti, which is in my constituency, Theni, in one of the regular centres under Indian Council for Agricultural Research, All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits Programme with adequate staff, funds and infrastructure.