

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to declare Bodimettu as 'Spices Tourism Spot' under the Centrally Sponsored Swadesh Darshan Rural Tourism Development.

**SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI):** Sir, geographical advantages of my Theni Parliamentary Constituency coupled with the sterling efforts of the farmers, particularly of the high ranges of the Western Ghats, help us to produce the best quality spices such as cardamom, tea, black pepper and a variety of other spices which are much favoured all over the world.

Dedicated facilities may be provided to enable tourists from different parts of the country to visit these cardamom plantations and experience the harvesting, sorting and processing of cardamom and other spices at Bodimettu in Theni District which is located near the tourist destinations such as Munnar, Thekkady in the State of Kerala. Creation of such facility would not only attract the tourists to my Theni district but also helps supplement the income of the spice farmers in the region.

I humbly request the Ministry of Tourism, through you, Sir, to declare Bodimettu as 'spices tourism spot' under the Centrally-sponsored Swadesh Dharshan Rural Tourism Development Scheme for sustainable rural development and livelihood generation in my Theni Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you.