

## **Regarding Food Processing Cluster in Tenkasi**

**DR. RANI SRIKUMAR (TENKASI):** Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I seek to raise an urgent matter concerning the agricultural sector in my Tenkasi constituency, which requires immediate intervention from the Government.

Tenkasi is a major producer of mango, lemon, bananas, and coconut, yet farmers face severe post-harvest losses due to the lack of modern storage and food processing facilities. This has led to distress sales, reduced income for farmers, and missed opportunities for value addition.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for setting up food processing clusters to support infrastructure development, processing units, cold storage, and logistics. However, Tenkasi has not been included in the scheme despite its agricultural potential.

A dedicated food processing cluster in Tenkasi will enhance farmers' income by reducing wastage and improving value addition. It will generate employment in food processing, packaging, and logistics. It will boost agro-based industries and encourage local entrepreneurship. It will also improve market linkages for farmers to sell their produce at competitive prices.

Sir, through you, I would urge the hon. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries to sanction a Food Processing Cluster in Tenkasi under PMKSY ensuring financial and logistical support to develop this much-needed infrastructure. Thank you, Sir.