

Regarding need to resolve the problems being faced by the mango growers in Tamil Nadu and to implement the Market Intervention Scheme under the PM-AASHA for mangoes-Laid

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI (SALEM): Tamil Nadu produces mangoes nearly ten lakh tonnes annually. Around 80% of Bangalora and 50% of Alphonso mango varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu are used for pulp production. The price of these varieties has fallen drastically this year as compared to last year. The pulp making companies, which are the primary purchasers have either refused to buy or were offering a paltry price of Rs 5 per kg. To help mango growers, honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sought Union Government's intervention on two other fronts to ease tensions between mango farmers and pulp manufacturers and urged the Centre to ensure strict adherence to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India norms. The State has also demanded a reduction in the Goods and Services Tax on mango pulp from 12% to 5%, the existing tax structure disincentivizes large scale production. The State has also urged the Union Government to implement the Market Intervention Scheme under Pradhan Mantri-Annadata Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for mangoes. The State Government is willing to share the losses faced by farmers with funds equally shared by Centre and State. Therefore, it is requested to take immediate action to help mango farmers as demanded by honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.