

Regarding need for establishment of a modern cold storage with larger capacity in Musiri, Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI ARUN NEHRU (PERAMBALUR): I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government to a matter of urgent public importance concerning the livelihood of banana farmers in the Musiri region of Tamil Nadu. The belt encompassing Musiri, Thottiyam, and Kulithalai, situated on the fertile banks of the River Kaveri, is one of the largest banana-producing hubs in the state. Our farmers cultivate several important varieties like Poovan, Rasthali, and Nendran, which are supplied across the country and form the backbone of the local agricultural economy. The presence of the ICAR's National Research Centre for Banana in nearby Tiruchirappalli further underscores the strategic importance of this region. Despite this, the entire region suffers from a severe lack of modern cold storage infrastructure. Banana is a highly perishable crop, and without adequate storage, our farmers are frequently compelled to resort to distress sales at throwaway prices, especially during peak harvest seasons. This results in significant financial losses and negates their year-long hard work. Therefore, I urge the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to intervene and sanction the establishment of a large-scale, modern cold storage facility in Musiri. This single step will empower our farmers, reduce post-harvest wastage, and significantly boost the rural economy.