

Title: Need to upgrade Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Donigal, Karnataka.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): The Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Donigal, has been set up with the sole objective of encouraging research and development activities of the cardamom in Hassan and its neighbouring districts. This Institute is functioning satisfactorily. The cardamom growers of Karnataka, particularly of Hassan constituency had submitted a memorandum to the then hon. Minister for Commerce on 27.7.1998 requesting him to upgrade Donigal.

Unfortunately, at present there is a calculated move by some persons with vested interest to close down this Institute. They want that the office of ICRI to be shifted from the Ministry of Commerce to the Ministry of Agriculture. This move is much against the interest of cardamom growers of Karnataka.

Hassan District Planters Association and also cardamom growers of Hassan district have vehemently opposed this move.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce to retain this Institute in the Ministry of Commerce and to immediately upgrade it by providing scientists, mandate to work on important spice crops, development and marketing facilities.