

Title: Need to provide electricity to mushroom growers in Punjab at affordable rates-laid.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (HOSHIARPUR): Mushrooms in view of their delicacy and food value have become popular with the predominantly vegetarians in our country. Considering its demand in world market, the farmers of Punjab started growing mushrooms. The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a letter to all the States stating that 'Mushroom Production' be treated as an Agricultural activity and Mushroom as an Agricultural commodity. Few of the States acted upon the advice of Ministry of Agriculture like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim Mizoram etc, but the farmers of Punjab who are growing mushroom are facing lots of problem due to heavy tariff of electricity charges. They have to pay sales tax as well as electricity charges on the line of Industrial charges.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Agriculture to request the Punjab Government to issue necessary instruction to treat mushroom production as an agricultural activity.