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Title: Need to renew the licences for Japanese Quail Farming in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Japanese Quail is a domesticated economic species for commercial egg production. It is having unique characteristics of fast growth, early sexual maturity, high rate of egg production and yields quick returns. Based on this, many farmers in rural areas especially in Southern States practice Japanese Quail Farming, More than 1000 farmers are involved in this business in Tamil Nadu alone. During 1984-1988, the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation promoted Japanese Quail chicks on a commercial basis. Union Agriculture Ministry is also supporting commercial farming of Quails like Dairying. It is also popular in various States. Farmers have obtained loans from Nationalised Banks and developed their farms.

After having consultation with Ministry of Agriculture (Government of India), Ministry of Environment and Forests have decided to delegate the power of issuing license for Japanese Quail hatcheries to the Officer of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of India not below the rank of Assistant Livestock Officer and Officers of the State Animal Husbandry Department not below the rank of Veterinary Asstt. Surgeon under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Based on that the Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued Circular No. 3-22/84 FRY (WL) dated 27-06-2007. This Circular has riot enunciated anywhere to ban the issuance of License to Quail Farming or permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities.

But unfortunately, based on the above Circular, recently, Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued another Circular F.NO.3-3/2011/WL-I dated 22.9.2011 and directed the State Governments and Union Territories not to issue new license for Farming of Japanese Quails and also not to give permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities. Based on the above Circular, the State Governments are refused to renew the Licenses for existing farms. Banning the farming of Japanese Quails will directly have an impact on the rural economy and the livelihood of small and marginal farmers.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate necessary action and to withdraw the above Circular F. No. 3-3/2011/WL-I dated 22.9.2011 and protect the poor farmers engaged in the farming of Japanese Quail in the country.