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Title: Need to set up an international level Spice Park at Bodi in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Respected Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak in Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have to wait because translation is not available right now. You will have to give notice for it and then your name will be called.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : It is already available, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to speak, you have to speak in English.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Sir, translation is available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, if you want, you can speak in Tamil.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHEED : Hon. Chairman, as you are well aware, Bodi town in my Constituency in Tamil Nadu, is a town of cardamom planters. As directed by our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the previous Government and Ministry concerned initiated steps to have an e-auction centre there. That has resulted in fetching good prices for cardamom. But at the same time, the cardamom purchase for the inland consumption is seriously hampered because of so many hurdles. People who come to purchase cardamom and spices at the national level are put to great inconvenience because of the presence of too many middlemen. This affects the interests of the buyers and also the growers. Buyers are not able to buy properly and that affects the growers too. When the brokers can make money, the growers are not able to get remunerative price. So there is an urgent need to establish a National Spices Park that can help both the international and national buyers who throng there. This will greatly benefit those who cultivate cardamom and it will also benefit small and marginal farmers and planters who grow other spices like clove and pepper. Hence, I urge upon the Government to establish a National Spices Park in Bodi to benefit the spices growers. As these cardamom plantations and estates situated in both the sides of the border and as there is tension prevailing in these vulnerable areas because of recent developments there, the workers and their livelihood remain under threat.

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

The workers are expected to collect the spices, process them and move them out of the plantations. Since, their lives are under serious threat due to attacks on them, there is an urgent need to give them protection. It will greatly benefit not only the people but also the cardamom plantations and other farmers growing spices. I urge upon the Government to give protection to the plantation workers which in turn will protect the cardamom and spices growing activities which contribute to our national economy. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record. You can raise the matter regarding setting up of spice park only.

*(Interruptions)* â€ˆ\*