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Title: Need to make Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu as an agricultural export zone and set up Food Processing Industries and cold storages therein.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): In Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu, Mango cultivation occupies a prominent place. Varieties of Mangoes are cultivated here in nearly 40,000 hectares of land and the annual production is around 4 lakh tonnes. They are sent to various places in the country and exported abroad accruing foreign exchange to the Government besides providing employment opportunity to the local people. Considering the high potential in this region, the National Horticultural Mission has identified and declared Krishnagiri district for promoting mango cultivation. As the mango production is in plenty, so is the production of mango pulp. The mango pulp industry in Krishnagiri district is the second largest exporter of mango pulp in the country.

Likewise tomato, tamarind and capsicum are also produced there in large quantities. Without proper transportation and cold storage facilities, the farmers particularly tomato cultivators are facing huge losses and at many times due to inadequate support price, they are forced to throw tomatoes in the open fields.

Therefore, to cope with the increasing cultivation of mangoes, potato, tamarind and production of mango pulp, I urge upon the Union Government to set up adequate number of food processing industries, cold storage facilities and also to set up an agricultural Export Zone in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.