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Title: Need to create an international level Spices Park at Bodi in Theni Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am going to raise a very important matter regarding Spices Park at Bodi in my Parliamentary Constituency Theni.

As you are aware, this area is well known for spices, especially cardamom plantations, cloves, coffee, tea and black pepper. I am thankful to Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji and our hon. Prime Minister under whose leadership, an E-auction Centre was opened. But there is no good spice market in this area whereby the farmers can get the best price for their produce. There are only four auction centres and these centres are full of *dalals*, brokers who buy spices from the farmers on their own rates and not on market rates. Like this, the farmers could not get appropriate prices for the spices produced. Some poor farmers take loan from private money lenders and they become defaulters because they are not getting the appropriate rates for their produce. The banks are not giving proper loans to the spice producers. The Government of India has waived Rs.72,000 crore of loans of the farmers but the banks are neglecting the farmers and are not willing to give loan to the poor farmers.

My request is that the Government should intervene and instruct the bankers to give loan to the farmers. Last year one or two people were even trying to commit suicide. So, my humble request to the Government is to create an international level Spices Park at Bodi where international traders and merchants will come for business and the farmers will get definitely a good price for their produce. The Government of India will also get good foreign exchange revenue.