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title: Need to set up a betel leaf research and development centre in Paramathivelur of Namakkal district.

\*SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL) :Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, Betel leaves are produced to the tune of Rs. 5000 crore from more than 10 lakh betel leaf farms. We are dependent on natural herbs to cure even the new diseases of modern times. Betel leaves, which have medicinal values to cure diseases like cold, cough, elephantiasis, white patches on the skin of human body, obesity, heart diseases and indigestion, are cultivated in the districts of Tamil Nadu along Cauvery river belt. Leaf rot disease and powdery mildew are some of diseases that affect the cultivation of betel leaves. There is no research centre for betel leaves in India. Betel leaf growing farmers face losses due to inadequate research and ignorance to export and export and use of technology.

I therefore urge that the Union Government should set up soon a betel leaf research and development centre in Paramathivelur of Namakkal district along Cauvery river belt.

Thank you.