

an>

Title: Need to take necessary steps to permit importing apples from foreign countries by Chennai Port Trust and all the Port Trusts in India.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I would like to bring an important issue to the notice of the House through this august House.

Apple is the king of fruits. At the end of the season at Kashmir, apple is imported from foreign countries. That is the only way to fulfil the demands of the Indian consumers. Up to September, 2015, apple was imported to India through various ports like Chennai port, Mumbai port etc.

Nowadays, import of apple from Chennai Port Trust is banned by the Government. The import of apple is only allowed through the Mumbai Port.

Imported apples are being transported to other parts of the country, including Chennai, by lorries and other modes of transport. This process involves additional cost, which is impacting the common man.

The Chennai Port Trust is not allowed to import apples from abroad. In the absence of the Chennai Port Trust being allowed to import apples, the traders are put to hardships. Since apple is a perishable commodity, the traders have to bring it to the consumers early so that they do not suffer loss on account of wastage.

Hence, I would request the Government of India to look into matter seriously and permit the Chennai Port Trust to import apples straight from abroad.

Except Mumbai Port Trust, all the other Ports in India are banned importing apples from foreign countries. So, the Government should take necessary steps to permit importing apples from foreign countries by all the Port Trusts in India.

Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to make a request to all the hon. Members. Here afterwards, whose names are not in the list of Members for raising 'Zero Hour', when they want to raise their matter in the House, they are requested to give the subject matter that they want to raise apart from their name. Only then, I will allow them; otherwise I would not allow them. Here afterwards, that has to be followed.

Now, Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel.