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Title: Request to provide sufficient space for grape containers on the ships so that they can be transported well in time.

***DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE (SHIRUR):** Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Thank you very much. Grapes are cultivated on a large area in Maharashtra state and in my constituency, Shirur. But, due to untimely and heavy rains, this crop has got damaged badly. So, to give some relief to grape cultivators, rest of the crop should be saved by encouraging its export.

I want to request the central government to convene an urgent meeting of container transporters and sufficient space should be reserved for grapes containers on ships, so that it can be shipped to foreign countries well within time. The container transporters charge extra in case of urgency. So, Rs.25 Lac per container should be granted as a grant-in-aid for transportation of grapes.

When Hon'ble Sharad Pawar ji was Agriculture Minister, this Agricultural Aid under Special Agricultural Scheme was around 7% but now it has been reduced to 3% only. It should be increased. Grapes season lasts for six months but it can be extended up to 9 months by covering it by an imported plastic cover. The import duty on this plastic cover should also be reduced. Demand for grapes in Europe is 25 Lac MT, but we are able to supply 1 Lac MT only.

Hence, I would like to request the Central Government to take immediate steps to encourage grapes export.