

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding closure of Central Potato Research Station at Ooty, Tamil Nadu - Laid

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Central Potato Research Station (CARS), a premier institute functioning under Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Muthorai in Ooty, is well equipped with high tech laboratory, seed production and multiplication facilities in an area of 45 acres. CPRS is providing valuable services to the farmers in Southern India by supplying disease free seeds.

ICAR decision to shut down the CPRS at Muthorai will severely affect the growth of Potato in Southern India especially hilly district of the Nilgris, Dindigul, Krishnagiri and Erode in Tamil Nadu.

If this research station is closed, then Jalandhar which is located far away, will be the only option left to access disease free planting materials. This will also increase the cost of cultivation. Moreover, the varieties of North India are not suitable for southern Hills.

I therefore, request the Union Government not to shut down CPRS, Ooty for the welfare of farmers in Southern India.