

Title: Need to review the decision to close down Central State Farm at Melachengam, Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.

***SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR):** Sir, the Central State Farm at Melachengam in Thiruvannamalai District that comes under my Constituency was rendering a good service by way of producing high breed seeds with research input, contributing to several hundreds of labourers over there. It will not be proper to hand over this Central State Farm to the State Government which is already in a financial crisis. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to rope in Multi-State Cooperative Societies and continue the operation as a joint-venture of both the Centre and the State and run the State Farm as a cooperative society enrolling all the agricultural labourers as its members.

I urge upon the Union Government to take it up as a pilot project involving entrepreneurs and agricultural graduates. As ours is a land of agriculture, it would be imperative to drop the idea of closing down and it can be taken up with coordination from the Union Agriculture Ministry, Rural Development Ministry and the Forest Departments of both the Union and the State Governments.

***Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil**