

Title: Need to continue functioning of Central-State farm at Melchangam in Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu-Laid.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Central State Farm, was started in 1971 at Melchangam in Tiruvannamalai District in my constituency, by State Farms Corporation of India Ltd, a Government of India undertaking with an objective to produce and supply quality seeds of various crops to the farmers of Tamil Nadu, neighbouring States and other needy States. When production of seeds became non-remunerative, the Farm concentrated on multiplication and supply of horticulture planting materials like mango, sapota grafts and pomegranate, guava, lime layers and also nursery plants for social forestry. A lease agreement with the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu Government for 3904 hectares of land for the Farm was allowed to lapse on 31st March this year and the Central undertaking is winding up the farming activity there.

Hence I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry not to view this as a profit making venture but as a social obligation in our agro-economy and run the Central State Farm again. This will help improve economy while increasing horticultural activities and orchards furthering agricultural science research and education.