

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Tamil Nadu to rejuvenate Central-State Seed Farm in Mel Chengam village in Thiruvannamalai district.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to take up with the State to rejuvenate the Central-State Seed Farm in Mel Chengam village in Chengam Taluk of Thiruvannamalai district in my constituency. The Seed farm which is there for the past 30 years is in an area of ten thousand acres benefiting about thousand families.

Most of the agriculture labourers are now above 40 years and if the farm is closed they will find it difficult to fend for themselves. In our agro-economy, seed is an essential input. So, considering the socio-economic compulsion, the Government must help this farm to run without losses.

The constraint now is inadequate irrigation facilities. Already there is a scheme to construct Kuppanatham Dam. I urge upon both the Union Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources to take up this with the State Administration to help them, and if need be, to provide irrigation facilities to this seed farm. This Government farm which is the lifeline to a thousand families in a backward area has been functioning from 1971 and they should step into the new millennium with a rejuvenated vigour.