

>**Title:** Need to develop a comprehensive Technology Mission for J&K in order to promote horticulture-Laid.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : The mainstay of the economy of Kashmir Valley is horticulture produce and handicrafts. The past one-decade of violence has emaciated the economy of the State. Terrorist depredations have shifted the focus of development in Jammu and Kashmir State and its repercussions have started showing in Kashmir Valley distinctly. Horticulture industry and handicraft production is declining.

We feel the North East States also are suffering from the similar situation due to terrorist violence and it is matter of appreciation that Central Government feels concerned and intends to take positive steps to boost the economy of North East States.

Government has envisaged a 'Technology Mission' for horticulture development in the North East States. We reiterate the need to develop a comprehensive 'Technology Mission' for J&K in order to promote horticulture i.e. apple in the valley and olive in Ramban district of Jammu on the similar lines. We also demand that a comprehensive project of marketing, design development and training, for the world famous handicrafts of Kashmir should be launched under the supervision of Ministry of Textiles as a centrally sponsored scheme.
