

Title : Need to establish a Horticulture University in North Kerala.

(vi) Need to establish a Horticulture University in North Kerala

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, the Government of India has given much importance to agriculture especially in the field of horticulture that may give employment and also better production in the agricultural field. Kerala is the land of various types of agricultural products as well as cash crops. The special feature of Kerala necessitates the formation of a Horticultural University in the State especially in the northern part of Kerala. This would really promote the overall development of the area. Such a noble centre can provide supportive research on specific problems of major crops, strengthen research, teaching and extension of the farming community, assist Government by identifying challenges faced by the primary sector and also the empowerment of weaker sections.

Under the Agricultural University of Kerala, there are about 12 research/training/academic institutions in the North Malabar area. These individual institutions are well known for their functioning in the research and promotion of coconuts, arecanuts, cocoa, fruits and vegetables, flowers, spices etc. Besides this there is a large area of cashew plantations also. The CPCRI, a national, prestigious research centre is also functioning in this area. Considering all these factors there is ample scope for starting a Horticultural University in the northern part of Kerala.

So, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take necessary steps to form the Horticulture University with Central Government assistance.