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Title: Need to include Haveri and Gadag districts of Karnataka under National Horticulture Mission.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Madam, Haveri and Gadag districts of Karnataka have not been included in the National Horticulture Mission. Thirteen districts of Karnataka are already a part of this Mission. While five to six other districts have been identified for inclusion in the Mission now, Haveri and Gadag districts have not been considered for inclusion. Haveri district is located on National Highway 4 between Pune and Bangalore abutting Western Ghats. Out of the seven *talukas* of Haveri district, four *talukas* have been included in Malanad Area Development Board of Karnataka where mango is grown in abundance. Chilli is also grown in abundance in this area. Byadgi chilli, the variety grown in Haveri district, has high demand in international markets. People from other countries come to Byadgi chillies. MDH masala manufacturing company also uses Byadgi chillies in their products which are exported. People from Kerala have put up Oleo Resin factory in Kerala as well as in Haveri district of Karnataka as it has got good demand not only within the country but also abroad. I raised this issue a couple of years back also. I wrote to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar also and he was kind enough to reply to me stating that Haveri district would be included in the Mission during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period. However, though 11th Five-Year Plan period has already started, Haveri district has not found been a given a place in the National Horticulture Mission yet. Farmers of Haveri and Gadag districts are agitated over the neglect they have been subjected to. Fruits like mango and commercial crops like chillies and other horticultural crops like coconut are grown in abundance in these two districts. There are about four rivers - Kumudwati, Tungabhadra, Varada, Dharma – flowing through Haveri district. These two districts are situated adjacent to the Western Ghats. While the neighbouring districts of North Kanara and South Kanara have been included in the Mission, these two districts have not been given that advantage. I, therefore, would like to urge this august House and the concerned Minister to include these two districts in the National Horticulture Mission on top priority as it is in the interest of the farmers of the area. Thank you.