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Title: Need to set up Processing units for mango-based products in the Country.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): The export of Indian Mangoes have started again following the lifting of ban imposed by certain countries after a gap of two decades.

The export of 160 tonnes of mangoes in 2007 to USA and 30-40 tonnes to Japan following the lifting of ban in 2006 severely affected the availability for domestic consumption. To make things worse the ambitious target fixed for this year by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of India to boost up the exports to Japan, America, China, Australia and to other European markets at 2000 tonnes is 1250% more than that of the last year. This will deprive the domestic consumers to relish these savoury mangoes.

The Government should not fail to understand that these mangoes are purchased and processed by the soft drink multinationals to produce sauces and juices under different tantalizing names which is marketed internationally including in our country. I, therefore, request the Government to consider setting up of Preservation and Processing Units to produce juices and pulps for domestic market which will go a long way in generating employment opportunities, availability of nutritious soft-drinks and guaranteeing remunerative prices for the mango - growers.