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Title: Need to promote distribution and consumption of the eggs of Japanese quails in order to protect the farmers engaged in its farming in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, it is related to the important problem concerning agriculturists. Japanese Quail is a domesticated and amazing creature. Many farmers in rural areas, especially in Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra practice Japanese Quail farming on a small scale. In Tamil Nadu alone, many farmers are involved in this business and all the farms are having countless number of birds. In the year 1982, it was brought to Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. During 1984-88, the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation promoted Japanese Quail chicks on a commercial basis and the same was supported by this University. Its eggs are edible. They are inexpensive to keep and fairly disease resistant. The Union Government is also supporting commercial farming of Quails like dairying.

Recently, the Union Government *vide* a circular have prohibited farming of Japanese Quails and have directed the States/Union Territories not to issue any new licence for farming of Japanese Quails and also not to give any permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities. Based on the Circular, the State Governments are refusing to renew the licences for existing farms. This move would adversely affect the rural economy and employment, and the livelihood of small and marginal farmers will be in jeopardy.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to withdraw the Circular prohibiting farming Japanese Quails and promote the distribution and consumption of their eggs and to protect the poor farmers engaged in their farming throughout the country.