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Title: Need to provide subsidy to farmers engaged in flower cultivation.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Madam Speaker, my thanks are to the hon. Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, Amma. Tamil Nadu is famous for cultivating and producing horticulture crops like cut roses, carnation, gerbera and high value vegetables like capsicum, European cucumbers in poly green houses. Around one lakh kilograms of these horticulture products are produced from 50 lakh square metres of land by 3000 small poly house farmers. Out of these, only 500 kilograms of the produce are being exported to Delhi from Bengaluru because of high air and train freight charges.

Further, there is no facility like cold storage, grading halls and market arrangements to store these products and also unsold products. The result of this is that most of the produced things get perished within a short span of time and small farmers have to incur heavy loss. Further, these 3000 small poly house farmers are using liquid fertilizers through micro irrigation for cultivation of these cut flowers and high value vegetables. It may be supplied to them at subsidized rates as is done in the case of ordinary fertilizers.

Further, our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi 'Amma' is granting 100 per cent subsidy for drip irrigation throughout the State for optimal use of water for irrigation. In the same way, the Union Government may give subsidy for liquid fertilizers. Hence, I would request the Union Government to take necessary action to give subsidies for export of these products by Air and train services and also to supply liquid fertilizers at subsidized rates at the earliest.