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Title: Need to set up Food Processing Business Incubation Centres in all Taluks in Tanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Food Processing Business Incubation Centres are the places where entrepreneurs or producers bring their produce, process, pack and take it to the market. It helps in avoiding wastage of food due to unscientific methods of handling and thereby more food will be made available for domestic consumption.

However, the producers are reluctant to take initiative to process or preserve their produce mainly because they do not have access to processing facilities and they find it difficult to transport the produce to a processing facility far away from their farm. To overcome this, it is proposed to create Food Processing Business Incubation Centres in each taluk. A taluk level Food Processing Business Incubation Centre will have facilities such as dry and cold storages for raw and processed foods, primary and value added processing, facilities of packing, office, technical supports, etc.

Thanjavur District is the main rice producing region in the State and is called the Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu. Besides rice, vegetables and other crops are produced here in huge quantities. Due to non-existence of Incubation Centres, wastage of food continues. Therefore, there is an urgent need to set up Incubation Centres in all the eleven taluks in the District *Viz*, Thanjavur Thiruvaiyau, Budalur, Needamangalam, Mannargudi, Peeravurani, Sethubavachatram, Pattukdttai, Madukkur, Thiruvonam, Orathanadu. These centres will benefit about 1,000 farmers directly and 5,000 others indirectly in each taluk

Keeping in view the above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for early setting up of Food Processing Business Incubation Centres in all the eleven taluks in Tanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, and also sanction adequate funds for the same.