

an>

Title: Need to set up an export oriented common facility centre for export of banana in Theni parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI): Theni District is the major Banana growing region in Tamil Nadu. About 12,000 hectares of land is producing large quantities and varieties of Banana. The Cavendish Banana has got tremendous potential for export.

The farmers spend more money towards adopting high-tech agro techniques and international standards of practice. The reason for Theni Banana's superior taste and international demand is due to its glucose content of 21 per cent.

The Banana farmers need a common export facility centre boost for export earnings. There is an urgent need to provide adequate help and support by the Union Government to encourage the cultivation and production of Banana in this region. this will increase the foreign exchange earnings of the country. Theni Banana has a shelf life of 42 days. Union Government should address the various problems faced by the farmers in cultivation, production, packaging and the export of Bananas.

The Tamil Nadu State Government has been compensating the farmers suitably whenever their crops are affected and damaged due to natural calamities.

I urge upon the Union Government to explore the possibilities through Agricultural Product Export Development Agency (APEDA) to implement export oriented common facility centre with Pack house facilities in Theni region of Tamil Nadu.