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Title: Need to promote the cultivation of potato.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): My Parliament Constituency Arambagh, the largest sub-division in Hoogly District is located on Dwarakeswar River Bank. As it is an agricultural fertile land, rice and potato are cultivated more.

Potato, a vegetable with a variety of vitamins, minerals is good for human health. Studies also reveal that potato decreases risk of heart disease, & increases energy. It contains fibre which helps to reduce cholesterol in blood and helps to prevent constipation.

Potato is also considered as a comfort food as it is available round the year and is the number one vegetable crop in the world. It strengthens our bones, boosts anti-oxidants, maintains blood pressure & reduces cancer cell growth. Reports say potato is also used in Siddha Medicines.

I wish to state that Agriculture Ministry and Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies should bring more new schemes and announce attractive subsidies, so that more farmers cultivate potato. Ministry of Food Processing should set up Mini Food Parks in Arambagh. Outlets like Haldirams, Lays, Tangles etc should be opened in Arambagh.

As Potato has so many benefits, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to promote the cultivation of potato in the country particularly in my constituency.