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Title: Need to set up an Agricultural and Processed Food Production Export Development Authority (APEDA) centre in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Thank you Speaker Madam. The State of Tamil Nadu produces nearly 55.2 lakh metric tonnes of fruits, 69.6 lakh metric tonnes of vegetables and 3.11 lakh metric tonnes of flowers annually in large quantities and they are exported world wide.

Madam, for Tamil Nadu's production and export potential, there is an availability of four international airports and four major seaports and connectivity in the State. The State of Tamil Nadu would greatly facilitate exports and further encourage the growers and exporters. There is no Agricultural and Processed Food Production Export Development Authority (APEDA) Centre.

Our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Amma has also presented a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. To promote the export of agricultural commodities and processed food products, a regional centre of APEDA is a must for the State of Tamil Nadu.

Madam, therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, to set up an APEDA Centre in Tamil Nadu.