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Title: Need to make seed farm in Meichengam village of Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu functional and also provide land for setting up an agricultural college in the area.

SHRIMATI R VANAROJA(TIRUVANNAMALAI): In the year 1972 a Central State seed farm was started in Meichengam Village near Chengam of Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu in a land spread over 11500 acres which belonged to Department of Forests. High breed millet saplings, hybrid varieties of Sapotta and Guava saplings grown through horticultural techniques were distributed to farmers. Around 10000 labourers worked in this seed farm on daily wages. Due to inefficient administration, the number of labourers, who worked in seed farm came down to 2000 and ultimately it was closed in 2002 due to loss. Now more than 10000 labourers are unemployed. There were 110 tube wells in this seed farm which functioned well. It is a matter of great concern that the seed farm has been closed. Now the seed farm has been handed over to TAFORN (Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited) and Nilgiri saplings are planted. Even though there are 110 tube wells which seem to be a boon to the farmers of this region, the seed farm has not been made functional. Growing of Nilgiri saplings is further a matter of worry. I strongly urge the Union Government to take over the land of around 11500 acres to start the seed farm with a view to provide standardized seeds to farmers. Moreover, this farm will become a source of employment for more than 10000 labourers. Further, as Tiruvannamalai district is known for agricultural activities, Union Government should come forward to grant a piece of land under its control for setting up an agricultural college for the benefit of the people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to make the seed farm in Melchengam Village of Tiruvannamalai functional so as to benefit farmers and to provide employment to thousands of labourers. I also urge that necessary land may be provided by the Union government for setting up of an agricultural college in this area for the benefit of agricultural students.