



The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce under the Chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, M.P. has presented its 99th Report on Export Promotion of Agricultural and Processed Food Products to the Parliament on 21st December, 2011.

2. Taking cognizance of the fact that India is predominantly an agriculture based economy and majority of the population is dependent upon agriculture and allied activities, the Committee decided to take up the subject 'Export Promotion of Agricultural and Processed Food Products' to explore ways for improving the lot of this vast majority dependent on agriculture. The Committee held the view that increase in exports of agricultural and processed food products shall be an effective mechanism to enable the farming community to get remunerative prices for their produce. If the entire chain of agro exports of the country attains an emphatic momentum then the country will be hugely benefited in terms of foreign trade, generation of more revenue and ultimately the welfare of farmers, who would then be able to get a level playing field in the economy as they are the ones who despite being the fulcrum to the whole process remain at the margins when accrued benefits are distributed.

3. The Committee was of the considered view that the Government should seize the opportunities in the horticulture sector and come up with right policies for its comprehensive development. Though the National Horticulture Mission has proved beneficial, the Committee felt that proper policy initiatives in the form of enhanced engagement with protected cultivation will help realize our potential to the maximum. The Committee noted that cropping techniques under protected cultivation control the micro-climatic surrounding of the plant body during its growth period, which helps in bringing in economy in cost of production simultaneously increasing productivity. Though high capital investment is the biggest constraint in full growth of protected cultivation, the Committee hoped that the Government will take necessary steps like extending tax concessions and related relief for investments in greenhouses, poly-houses, shade-houses, etc. for protected cultivation in cluster approach. (para 1.5)

4. The Committee felt that private sector should be encouraged to carry out research for better techniques of protected cultivation and a mechanism for an effective single window clearance for protected cultivation for organized clusters development should be devised. The increased emphasis on protected cultivation should be

