

Title: Plight of paddy growers of Kerala and enrollment of farmers to Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, the plight of paddy growers of Kerala is worsened by the reluctance of the Central Government to allot its portion of Rs. 580 crore and State Government's non-payment of Rs. 460 crore towards the sum required to be disbursed through supplyco for paddy farmers in Kerala and the banks consortium deducting its previous loan liabilities of supplyco from the current tranche of allocation. The paddy farmers of Kuttanad, Kerala, who are from my constituency, are yet to be paid a sum of Rs. 53 crore towards payment of rice procured and a similar situation is threatening the very survival of paddy farmers of Kerala.

The Government must release the pending portion of allocation and ensure that the interests of paddy growers are protected and their dues paid immediately. But the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs of the Central Government is deliberately delaying the portion of the Central Government to the State Government. The State Government is also waiting for the allocation of the Central Government. If the allocation of the Central Government is not reaching the State Government at the proper time, the State Government will not be able to allocate their share. So, the allocations of the Central Government and the State Government must come together so that the State Government can deliver its share. The problem is very serious. The income of the farmers is dependent only upon the price of paddy. If the Government of India is delaying the payment, then it will create more problems.

The wilful neglect and intended omission displayed by banks in enrolling farmers in the Crop Insurance Scheme is another matter of importance.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only one matter should be addressed.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, it is a related matter. This matter is also relating to farmers. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana of the Union Government has put lakhs of farmers in peril as they stand excluded and out of the ambit of insurance. The situation is particularly grave among Kerala's paddy farmers who have been struggling to sustain farming due to repeated floods, crop loss and water logging. The Government must engage in retrospective inclusion of farmers who have been unknowingly revoked of their right to insurance by banks that wilfully abstained from their duty of informing and enrolling the farmers to the Insurance Scheme.

माननीय सभापति : डॉ. सुकान्त मजूमदार जी? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री रवनीत सिंह जी ।