

### **Regarding lack of procurement process of farmers**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me an opportunity to speak. I wish to bring to the urgent attention of the House the severe crisis faced by paddy farmers in Kuttanad and Upper Kuttanad, which includes Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Pathanamthitta districts, due to significant lapses in the procurement process. The delay in procurement and inefficiency in payment disbursement have placed thousands of farmers in deep financial distress.

One of the major concerns is the delayed procurement by rice mills, which has led to a situation where farmers are unable to sell their produce at the right time. As a result, they are either forced to hold onto their stock without proper storage facilities or sell at lower prices to private buyers, leading to losses. Despite repeated assurances, the procurement process remains sluggish and unorganized.

The inefficiency of the State Government and its departments, particularly the Agriculture and Civil Supplies Department, has further aggravated the crisis. The absence of a well-coordinated procurement mechanism has resulted in large-scale mismanagement, causing unnecessary hardships for farmers. Lack of proper planning and accountability has severely impacted the timely collection and storage of harvested paddy.