

**Regarding need to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) guaranteed to farmers under Paddy Procurement Policy in Kerala especially in Palakkad District-Laid**

**SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD):** The farmers in Kerala, especially from the district of Palakkad are not getting payment against their produce supplied to the agency of the State Government of Kerala for the last several months. The delay in payment for the paddy procured by a government agency is pushing them into a debt trap or not even to go ahead with the sowing for the next season. The payment towards paddy provided by the farmers is given as loan through bank to them and loan liability towards payment made as a loan lies on their shoulders. The farmers were also not getting loan from bank for their other needs and Banks deny loans to them citing their low Credit Information Bureau India Limited score. Due to non-payment against paddy procured by the agency of the State Government, many farmers have dropped paddy cultivation. Once upon a time the paddy cultivation in Kerala was above 9 lakh hectares and it has now been reduced to less than two lakh hectares of land and may go down further, if we do not take corrective steps in this regard. Therefore, it is urged that the Minimum Support Price guaranteed should be paid to the farmers in Kerala directly.