

## **Regarding relaxation of moisture content in paddy procurement**

**SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI(SALEM):** Madam, various parts of Tamil Nadu especially the delta region of our State have experienced heavy rains which has devastated the normal life of the farmers and because of these heavy rains, the moisture content of the paddy, grown by our farmers, have abnormally increased, rendering them not to be procured. It has come to a standstill. Therefore, Madam Chairperson, our dynamic leader, Dravidian leader of our State, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written to the Prime Minister to increase the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement from 17 per cent to 22 per cent highlighting the plight of the poor farmers. In fact, three Central teams have visited various parts of Tamil Nadu and collected samples which the people have established that the moisture content is more because of incessant rains. They have collected samples and left but unfortunately this vengeful and anti-farmers Government have rejected to increase the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement because of which the livelihood of our farmers has been thrown out of gear.

In fact, I recall that on several occasions in the past when the Union Government accepted the request to increase the moisture content but the deaf Union Government rejected the proposal on various issues including the Metro Rail Project which was due to Madurai and Coimbatore. It was blatantly rejected by this Government betraying the people of Tamil Nadu. Not only this Madam, the funds for education department have been stopped. The NREGA funds have been reduced. The Railway projects have been forestalled.

Now, the farmers have been betrayed. They are not betraying the DMK but they are betraying the people of Tamil Nadu. I say that the Kharif procurement is also still underway and the north east monsoon in our State is intense again.

I, on behalf of the DMK, urge upon the Union Government to order for relaxation of moisture content. Otherwise, the farmers livelihood will be rendered absolutely bad.

Thank you, Madam.