

Title: Need to evolve a uniform paddy procurement policy by the Central Government in order to solve the problems of farmers in the states especially in Tamil Nadu and payment of wages to employees of tea plantations.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Yes, Sir. I am on a different matter.

@ Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, for the past 30 years we had direct paddy procurement centres in Tamil Nadu. When our leader Kalaignar Karunanidhi was in power this was in vogue and direct procurement of paddy was there till last year.

Every year on 15th of December these direct procurement centres started functioning to benefit the paddy cultivators. But this year the ADMK Government has delayed the opening up of these centres and only from January this year paddy procurement has started.

Unprecedented heavy rains this year had hit hard the paddy cultivation to a great extent. At a time when paddy farmers were finding it difficult to push through their agricultural produce due to rain havoc, these direct procurement centres were closed on 15th of March much ahead of the month of May as it used to be. The small farmers and agriculturists from the districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvaroor and Nagapattinam resorted to dharna on the roads urging upon the State Government to procure paddy. But the paddy farmers are being arrested by the AIADMK Government. The Union Government must intervene and evolve a uniform paddy procurement policy to be followed by all the State Governments. Hence I impress upon the Union Government to ensure a uniform and smooth procurement policy to be followed by all the State Governments. It is necessary to save the paddy cultivators from the clutches of middlemen in the open market and being swayed by the vagaries of market trends. The Union Government must suitably respond to protect the interests of the paddy cultivators.

@ Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to reply. He is levelling an allegation against the Government of Tamil Nadu. I have to defend. What he says is absolutely wrong. It is totally baseless. There is no ground. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, he has not given a notice to speak on this subject. How are you allowing him to speak? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : We are continuing the same policy enunciated by the previous Government in Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I did not interrupt when he spoke. ...(*Interruptions*) When the policy is wrong, it has to be discussed. But this is not a place to discuss that policy. Last week, the Legislature was in session and they did not raise it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He mentioned about the problems of the farmers.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : He mentioned about arrest. There is no such arrest. Just to draw the attention of the Government, he has levelled a baseless allegation. When the Tamil Nadu Government is attacked, we have to defend it. There is no such arrest. We are following the same policy of procurement. The policy of procurement is the same. They did not raise it on the floor of the Legislature last week. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kaliappan.