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Title: Need to take suitable measures to check distress sale of paddy by farmers in West Bengal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The market price of paddy came down to Rs.350 per quintal in West Bengal. It is much below the minimum support price. There is no agency to purchase the paddy directly from the farmers so far. It is expected that the annual paddy production will cross the earlier records this year. The West Bengal Government could procure around 80 thousand MT rice last year only. The Food Corporation of India did not procure rice or paddy from West Bengal for the last few years. I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps so that FCI would procure minimum 12 lakh MT rice from West Bengal and allocate necessary funds to enable the State Government to procure at least six lakh MT rice or nine lakh MT paddy directly from the farmers. I also urge upon the Union Government to direct the commercial banks for sufficient lending to the local *Panchayat* bodies for developing their necessary infrastructure and post harvesting mechanism to meet the distress sale.