

Title: Need to ensure remunerative price for paddy in Andhra Pradesh and open more purchase centres of F.C.I. in the region.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Ministers of Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs are present here.

In Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for paddy crops. They are in distress. They are at the mercy of the money lenders. So, I am requesting, through you, Sir, the Government of India to please instruct the FCI to open more centres to purchase paddy. The State Government has totally failed to procure paddy. Previously, in the earlier Government, the Civil Supplies Corporation also had procured paddy and then, later they were handed over to the FCI. But this time, the State Government has not taken any action. Even the Government has announced Minimum Support Price of Rs.600 per quintal for 'A' Grade and Rs.560 per quintal for 'B' and 'C' Grades.

Due to the intervention of the middlemen and the agents, they are now reducing it by Rs.100. The farmers have no agency to purchase and so, they are compelled to sell for Rs.500 per quintal. Under these circumstances, I am requesting the hon. Minister to put it before the hon. Agriculture Minister so that FCI is instructed. Otherwise, the farmers will die. In the last two years, nearly 3300 farmers committed suicide.

They have taken loans from the banks, as also the private money-lenders. It is very difficult for them to now re-pay those loans. Such an alarming situation is there in Andhra Pradesh. It has appeared as a headline in almost all the newspapers. This situation is prevalent in the whole of Andhra Pradesh. My humble request to the Agriculture Minister is to intervene immediately as any delay will ultimately put the farmers at a loss.