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Title: Regarding support price of paddy.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The Government has announced the Minimum Support Price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. But so far as paddy's Minimum Support Price is concerned, it has already been increased only by Rs. 10/-. Earlier the price was Rs. 550/- and now it has been increased to Rs. 560/-. When the prices of all the essential commodities are being raised and when the inflation is also above seven per cent, the Minimum Support Price is increased by only 1.2 per cent. So, it is neither remunerative nor supportive. Moreover, the FCI is supposed to procure in bulk, but in West Bengal it is quite inadequate. They are supposed to procure 10 to 12 lakh metric tonne paddy from the farmers.

Presently, the Minimum Support Price of the paddy is lower than the Minimum Support Price. So, I urge upon the Government that the FCI can go and procure the paddy direct from the farmers of West Bengal and other States also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir has also given a similar notice. He can associate with it.

...(Interruptions)