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Title: Need to procure paddy in the Cauvery delta areas of Tamil Nadu by FCI.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, at a time when Samba harvesting is on in Tamil Nadu particularly in Thanjavur District the State Government has not taken adequate steps to procure paddy directly from farmers. Very few procurement centres are on. Thereagain they refuse to accept paddy from farmers on the grounds of moisture content.

Union Government is also not procuring paddy there through FCI. The Cauvery Delta farmers have been hit hard by drought consecutively for the past 3 years. The small and marginal farmers have been driven to their wits end and such poor farmers are forced to sell their paddy at a throw away price of Rs 4 per kg. The cost of production of rice in itself is Rs 8 per kg when it is sold not less than Rs 12 per kg in the open market. Hence I urge upon the Government to open more procurement centres to help overcome the problems faced by the Cauvery Delta farmers.

Similarly, groundnut price has also dwindled from Rs 750 per quintal to Rs 400 and less. The peanut farmers find it difficult to make both ends meet as the input cost is more. Ironically at the same time groundnut oil price has been increased by Rs 10 per kg. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to evolve effective steps to save poor farmers from middlemen by way of offering minimum support price setting up more number of procurement centres.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice to speak in the regional language? No interpretation is coming.

...(Interruptions)