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Title: Problems being faced by milk producers in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI K. SUGUMAR (POLLACHI): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the plight of milk producers and dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu especially in the areas that come under my constituency that are traditionally known for higher level of milk production. The impending situation arising out of price rise may give rise to a situation where the milk producers may give up their traditional occupation which may result in huge milk scarcity in Tamil Nadu. Most of the rural farmers are entirely dependent on milk production to fend for their livelihood.

The dairy farmers are hit hard by the rising prices of all commodities that has affected both directly and indirectly tinkering with the prices of raw materials needed for milk production like cattle feed, fodder, oil cakes and husk corresponding with the rise in prices of foodgrain and other food materials. In a State where the Government claims that it is selling rice at a price of Re. 1 per kilogram, the rice husk costs Rs. 9 per kg. At a time when drinking water is selling at a price of Rs. 15 per litre the milk is procured by the Government at a cost of Rs. 14.80 per litre. The Government sells it at a cost of Rs. 26 per litre thereby making a profit of Rs. 11 per litre. Various other States have come to the rescue of dairy farmers and milk producers. For instance, the Government of Kerala procure milk at a cost of Rs. 20 per litre and sells it at a cost of Rs. 24 per litre. In Karnataka and Puducherry, the dairy farmers get a subsidy grant of Rs. 5 per litre of milk produced by them. Several States are providing dairy farm inputs like fodder and cattle feed at subsidized rates. In Tamil Nadu, the milk procurement price remains much low resulting in high level of hoarding and black marketeering activities of private dairy units that procure milk from the poor farmers of Tamil Nadu and taking the milk to other States making huge profits causing milk scarcity in Tamil Nadu.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to fix a uniform procurement price for milk all over the country and come to the rescue of small level dairy farmers in the rural areas thereby brightening their lives by way of taking suitable measures in this regard.