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Title : Need to open paddy procurement centre at Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Sir, my Theni parliamentary constituency is totally a farmers' basin. We have Periyar and Vaigai Rivers with 58 and 18 village channels respectively. Lakhs and lakhs of acres of paddy producing land is there, particularly, in Utamapalayam, Cumbam, Gudalore, Chinnamanur, Bodi, Periakulam and other areas.

I appreciate the State Government and the Central Government that they have started paddy procuring centres in Madurai, Tanjore, Trichy, Kanjivaram, Chennai and all. But there is no paddy procuring centre at Theni District because of that wherever the Central Government is buying, the farmers are selling at a rate of Rs.1,050 to Rs.1,250. In my district the private people are buying it at a rate of Rs.550 to Rs.600, which is only half the rate. So, farmers are suffering quite a lot.

I would request the State Government as well as the FCI from the Central Government to start paddy procurement centres in my constituency to facilitate the poor farmers of that area. The farmers are suffering. फार्मर्स अच्छा होगा, तो देश अच्छा होगा। उसके लिए आप थोड़ी कोशिश करके गवर्नमेंट को बोलें ताकि वहां कुछ अच्छा हो सके।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Aaron Rashid *ji*, you speak good Hindi.