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Title: Problems being faced by the Onion growers in Dharwad, Karnataka.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from northern Karnataka where onion is one of the major Kharif produces. Unfortunately, due to delay in the monsoon rainfall and shortage of rainfall, sowing is very much delayed. It is also reported that the major producing regions of Maharashtra and Gujarat have also received rainfall very late and very little also.

Due to this, what is going to happen is that onions produced during Kharif, which are generally expected during September, is now expected to come to the market sometime during end-October and November. It is already reported that onion price is going up in the retail market. It is also reported that it is further going to reach the sky. When actually the Kharif produces, which are delayed because of the late sowing, come to the market afresh, prices will come down. Ultimately, the middleman is going to get benefited by this.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take necessary steps well in advance, so that at present when there is shortage, the price of onion in the retail market does not go up and when the fresh produce comes in October-November, prices will not fall down steeply and farmers are not made to suffer. I once again urge the Government to take appropriate steps in advance.