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Title: Need to enact the Food Security Bill without affecting the existing beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System in the States.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Food security is a scheme undertaken by all the countries of the world with a far sighted vision. It is very important to increase food production by way of several initiatives like agricultural research and extension facilities. Another important work pertains to ensuring storage of grains in warehouses. Price rise should be controlled. Besides, the problem relating to non-availability of sufficient food grains, due to monsoon failure and natural calamities, should be tackled. In a developing country like India, it is necessary to ensure that people below poverty line and people who belong to poor and middle classes get food grains at cheaper rates under Public Distribution System.

In Tamil Nadu, the Public Distribution System was reorganized by *Perarignar Anna*. The leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Dr. Kalaignar* further improved the scheme. This scheme is being continued in Tamil Nadu benefitting the poor people. In this scenario, the Union Government has brought out the Food Security Bill which is aimed at benefitting the poor people of the country. Those who spend Rs.33/- per day in urban areas and those who spend Rs.27/- per day in rural areas are not considered as poor. This is a peculiar announcement of the Union Government in a situation where the people are affected by price rise. Around 21% of the people who are below poverty line may not be benefitted by this proposed legislation. Particularly in Tamil Nadu, if this scheme is implemented, around 12% people who are below poverty line will be affected. In order to avoid such a situation, the Food Security Bill should be implemented without affecting the Public Distribution System that is in existence in the States like Tamil Nadu, without decreasing the number of beneficiaries. The Food Security should be implemented with sufficient funds by protecting the interests of the poor.