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Title: Need to provide subside to potato growers.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, potato growers in West Bengal and in some other States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are facing difficulties as their produce is being sold at half the price and as a result they are incurring huge losses; they are not deriving any profit, in spite of toiling hard in the farm to produce potatoes. There is an urgent need to provide subsidy to the potato growers just as the Union Government provides subsidy to the rice growers.

To give an example of how potato growers are undergoing hard times, whatever investment they are making in one *bigha* of land, which is equivalent to 1,600 square yards, they are not able to earn profit. On the other hand, they are losing between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,000. If efforts are not taken on a war-footing basis by the Central Government, they would find it difficult for them to make both ends meet and they would be forced to leave the potato growing and take some other agricultural avenue.

I would like to ask the Union Government to take measures to come to the rescue of potato growers at this hour of despair and helplessness. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Ratna De (Nag).