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Title: Need to continue National Agriculture Insurance Scheme beyond the Financial Year 2014-15.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and Tamil Nadu goes about in a big way as it has got traditional cultivation methods since time immemorial. The Government of Tamil Nadu takes keen interest in promoting agricultural production and ensuring protection to farmers affected by various factors. As far as the Centre is concerned, crop Insurance is the only protection made available to crores of our farmers. Under this scheme, both the Governments, Centre and States, are paying the insurance premium so far either fully or partly. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our hon. Chief Minister is in favour of taking the burden of premium payment by the State Government itself. The hon. chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had also written to the Union Government that National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) must be continued and it was approved by the Union Government for 2014-15. Now contrary to it, Union Agriculture Ministry has indicated that a new Crop Insurance Programme based on crop yield and income would be rolled out shortly. I urge upon the Union Government that the Government of Tamil Nadu may be permitted to continue with the implementation of NAIS during next year also on the existing pattern of sharing premium subsidy and compensation.