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Title: Issue regarding procurement of wheat and paddy by the Food Corporation of India.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a serious issue which is having national importance and which is concerning the farming community of our country.

Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have issued a letter to all the State Governments stating that those State Governments who are providing an amount above the Minimum Support Price for wheat and paddy, in their case the Food Corporation of India will not take part in the procurement process. This will adversely affect the procurement of paddy and wheat. Especially, I know in my State we are giving more than Rs. 7 per kilo to the farmers in procurement of paddy. In almost all the States, they are paying bonus above the Minimum Support Price of paddy and wheat. So the recent letter will adversely affect the procurement process.

So my submission, through you, Madam, to the Government as well as the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is to kindly review this position. Unless you are reviewing it, it will definitely affect the agricultural production and the food security of our country will be adversely affected.

Also, it has been very specifically stated in the letter – it is with me here – that it is applicable to both decentralized procurement States as well as the non-decentralized procurement States. It is affecting both types of the States. So the farming community will be affected. So, my submission is, you withdraw or review the position so as to help the farmers. Thank you, Madam.