

**Title:** Requests the Central Government to direct the State Government of Tamil Nadu to open more procurement centres and issue permanent orders for supply of more rice from the central pool.

SHRI C. GOPAL (ARAKKONAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring the following matter to the notice of the Government of India. Tamil Nadu Government failed to procure the expected quantities of paddy during this Kuruvai season. So far, they procured less than the quantities procured in the last two years. Experts in this field feel that there should be a radical change in the procurement policy that is followed by the Tamil Nadu Government. Otherwise, storage of paddy will not be satisfactory.

During this Kuruvai season, up to November, 1998, the Tamil Nadu Government procured only 31,469 tonnes of nice variety of paddy and 12,881 tonnes of ordinary varieties of paddy. In the year, 1996, the same Government procured 1,11,426 tonnes of paddy. But in the year 1997, their total procurement of paddy was 7,04,760 tonnes. At this stage, the Tamil Nadu Government says that there is 5,00,000 tonnes of rice in the State Pool and that it is sufficient for the State of Tamil Nadu. Every month, Tamil Nadu Government is getting 1,10,000 tonnes of rice from the Central Pool. Last month, it was decided that some 20,000 tonnes of rice would be supplied to the State from the Central Pool. The Tamil Nadu Government is now expecting more allocation of rice every month from the Central Pool.

Sir, experts from the procurement department feel that the Government should procure eight lakh tonnes of paddy during the Samba season. Then only the Tamil Nadu Government will not be facing the scarcity of rice.

Now, the Government is adopting two methods for procurement. First, they are procuring from the Government department and second, they are procuring through the private sectors. Sir, the farmers are selling only to the private sector because they are getting good prices from the private sector. Therefore, they have to procure eight lakh tonnes of paddy. Then only the problem of scarcity of rice will be solved. The Government says that there is no possibility of scarcity. But when the storage of rice in the State pool is reduced, price of rice will rise and then the problem will arise. That is the opinion of experts.

Sir, the onion-like situation should not be allowed to happen in the case of rice in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the Central Government may direct the State Government to open more and more procurement centres and issue permanent orders for the supply of more rice from the Central Pool. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, is it the sense of the House to continue without lunch-break? Shall we continue?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (GHOSI): No, Sir. You please adjourn for lunch... (Interruptions)

श्री राजो सिंह (बेगूसराय): सभापति जी, कोरम पूरा नहीं है इसलिए आप इसे एडजर्न कर दीजिए।... (

Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Sir, if we start raising the quorum issue, then the House will not be going to function. We know, how things are going on. So, let us not raise the issue of quorum... (Interruptions)

श्री राजो सिंह (बेगूसराय): सभापति जी, कोरम के बिना कैसे चलेगा।

... (व्यवधान)

कोरम के बिना कोई कार्य कैसे चल सकता है इसलिए आप इसे लंच ऑवर के बाद शुरू करिये।

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : May I request the hon. Minister who is incharge of Textiles to speak about his Bill for about five minutes. Let him reply to the discussion on the Bill. We are not going to object. Then we can adjourn for lunch. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how can it be allowed?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.40 p.m.

13.42 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

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14.44 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up matters under rule 377. Shri Jaysinhji Chauhan.