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Title: Need to improve the mechanism of payment of premium under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Pradhana Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana the new crop insurance scheme was launched last year by this government. It is better than the previous national agricultural insurance scheme. But there are many flaws in the scheme. Usually the farmers enrolment in their PAC Bank gives preference to the loanee farmers. They cause delay in enrolment of non-loanee farmers and also they are not allowed to pay the premium upto the due date. They fix a particular due date and advise the farmers to pay the premium within that date. This causes delay to accept the premium amount from the non-loanee farmers.

Some farmers are not able to pay the premium within the date, some of them are not aware of the date. So lapse occurs and also the collected premium amount must reach the insurance company within the date. Most of the PACB and rural bank don't have the proper internet service and have server problems. The payment details don't reach the insurance companies properly. So the insurance companies should extend the time for at least one more month for this procedure.

The insurance companies should set up the Common Service Centre (CSC) at village level in Thiruvavarur and Nagapattinam district. They must establish 573 centers in Thiruvavarur and 523 centres in Nagapattinam . But they have only less than 100 centres. Therefore, the above mentioned number of CSCs should be setup at village level immediately.

The premium collecting agents through CSC have various duties like, registering farmers details, variety of crops, the field photo update, data entry to central government portal and state government portal. They also conduct 4 crop cutting experiments (CCE) in each village. In Thiruvavarur and Nagapattinam they should conduct more than 25,000 CCE in all crops. The honorarium of the CSC agents are very low, they get only Rs.5,000 per month. So agents don't come forward to perform the required tasks. Hence, the honorarium for the CSC staff should be paid through the government.

The insurance amount is calculated considering the years yield, that is 5 years good yield, 2 years bad yield. Bad yield should be avoided, and also the distribution of insurance amount should be done

for every village individually not district wise or lot wise.If they give it at the village level it is easy to distribute the amount very quickly.

In Thiruvarur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Koltur, Mutthupettai, Nannilam, Thiruvarur blocks, the threshold yield is very low. In this case they should consider only the high yield blocks and pay the insurance amount equally for all blocks. So that the insurance amount variation within the farmers will be avoided.

Finally the insurance should pay through a government agency, because in the year 2016-17 throughout India the farmers' contribution is Rs. 2000 crores. The Central and State government's contribution is Rs. 7000 crore. When Drought affected all over India, the insurance companies paid only Rs. 4500 crores to the farmers, the balance 4500 crore is net profit for the insurance companies. This clearly proves that the insurance companies pocket a major portion of the fund. So I advise the government to pay the insurance to the farmers through government agencies.