

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding increasing of subsidy allocated to the Kisan Rail service and to upgrade to the train for the longevity of the agricultural produce of framers.

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government, on behalf of our country's farmers', through you, for the introduction of the novel Kisan Rail service with 50 per cent subsidy to farmers during the pandemic to help the farmers.

A total subsidy of Rs 50 crore per year was decided to be provided by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. However, as reported by the Ministry of Railways, it would require a three-fold subsidy to meet the demand. Kisan Rail has carried more than 2.7 lakh tons of consignment across its 60 operational routes till now. The service has benefitted the farmers across the country in increasing their income by cutting the transportation cost by Rs.1,000 per tonne, and the travel time by almost 15 hours. However, one of the grievances has been the need for proper airflow and ventilation facility in trains, without which the produce may have a shorter shelf life.

I, therefore, urge the Government to increase the subsidy allocated to the Kisan Rail service to Rs.150 crore per year and consider introducing requisite upgrades to the train for the longevity of the agricultural produce. Thank you, Sir.