

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding irregularities in procurement of paddy by FCI in Telangana.

SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI (NIZAMABAD): Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to raise a very important matter. It is regarding suicides of farmers in the State of Telangana. I would request you to give me a couple of minutes.

In Telugu, there is a proverb: “Donge Donga Donga Annattu”, whose Hindi version is “*ulta chor kotwal to daante* ‘उल्टा चोर कोतवाल को डांटे’”. Today, in Telangana, this seems to be coming into life.

The farmers of Telangana are in very a bad condition under the current State dispensation. The farmers in the State of Telangana are committing suicides because the State is not procuring paddy in spite of an agreement in place with the Centre for procuring 60 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. Between 2014 and 2020, more than 416 farmers have committed suicide in Siddipet District alone, which is the home District of the Chief Minister, Finance and Health Minister.

Another reason for increase in farmers’ suicide in Telangana is the delay in procurement of paddy due to which, during the rains, the produce stands damaged resulting in irreparable loss to the farmers.

The Central Government has never said that they will not procure rice from Telangana. Instead, the procurement of rice by FCI during the past five years has increased from 35.96 lakh metric tonnes to 94.53 lakh metric tonnes in 2020-21, which is an increase of over three times.

In spite of this, the TRS MPs are creating a ruckus in the House, insulting the institution of Parliament and the people's mandate.

माननीय सभापति : प्लीज, आप अंतिम बात बोलिए ।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI : I am just concluding, Sir.

Regarding parboiled rice, the FCI has been communicating with the State since many years to reduce the production of parboiled rice as the States that consume parboiled rice are now self-sufficient. There is another reason that is going on in this process. This paddy which is procured is being distributed among all rice millers to make Custom Miller Rice. The old-fashioned rice mills are selling this paddy for Rs. 1,600 per quintal to the modern rice mills, which are milling it and selling it at a premium of Rs. 40 per kilo in the domestic and international markets.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Make your request quickly.

SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI : Yes, Sir. Give me just 10 seconds.

These old-fashioned millers are buying recycled rice at the rate of Rs.18 per kilogram from adjacent States and other parts, and are handing over to the FCI at 67-kilogram rice for 100 kilogram of paddy. The cost incurred by these millers is Rs. 1,206. Without milling or making any efforts, these mills are minting money, to the tune of approximately Rs. 400 per quintal. So, this scam of thousands of crores is being run under the supervision of the son of the ... *

माननीय सभापति: आप बोलना क्या चाहते हैं?

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI : Sir, I would request the Central Government to investigate the entire scenario and take necessary action.
... (*Interruptions*)