

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to import maize to save poultry farmers in the country.

SHRI A. K. P. CHINRAJ (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu Poultry Farmers Association is an apex body of poultry farmers from across Tamil Nadu, especially, Namakkal, Erode, Palladam and Pollachi. This includes layer, broilers and breeder farms.

Tamil Nadu layer poultry farms have close to 5-crore laying hens which produce 4-crore eggs every day and also has a broiler placement of 4.5 crore chicks every month which is 20 per cent and 15 per cent of India's market share respectively.

Poultry industry in Tamil Nadu employs directly and indirectly more than 20 lakh people in rural areas. At national level, poultry industry contributes close to Rs. 70,000 crore to the GNP of our country.

All over India, poultry farmers are facing a very critical situation currently due to shortage of basic raw material especially, maize. Drought and pest attack across India and also the failure of North-East monsoon and South-West monsoon led to non-availability of maize throughout the year. Since, maize is a major ingredient in poultry feed, poultry farmers are facing a huge financial loss due to unavailability of maize which will lead to higher cost of egg production and unemployment in India.

We have earlier requested the former hon. Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh for import of 10 lakh tonnes of maize with zero duty for poultry farmers. We have got approval from DGFT to import 1 lakh metric tonnes of maize with 15 per cent tax and the order was released on April 3, 2019, Order No. 02/2019. But, till date, the global tender was not released for bidding. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: यहां पर कैबिनेट मंत्री और राज्यमंत्री बैठे हैं ।

SHRI A. K. P. CHINRAJ: We humbly request the hon. Commerce Minister to approve the import of 10 lakh tonnes of maize with zero duty for poultry farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य, नये सदस्यों को बोलने दें ।

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): At least, two Cabinet Ministers must be present in the House. Otherwise, what is the point? ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: ऐसा कोई नियम नहीं है । मैं नियम की किताब बता दूंगा । यह शून्य काल चल रहा है ।