

Request to revoke the notification issued to export duty-free paddy to Nepal

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): Respected Chairman Sir, I represent the Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha constituency. My area is known as the granary of West Bengal, i.e. it is the rice bowl of the country with its hundreds of rice mills. Last year, on 31st October 2022, to extend a helping hand to our neighbouring country Nepal, A notification has been issued to export 6 lakh metric tonnes of duty-free paddy to that nation. We all know that when paddy is thrashed, we get rice, broken rice, rice husk, rice bran. Bran oil is produced from bran and ethanol is manufactured from broken rice. After oil is extracted, the rice husk and rice cakes are used as fodder for animals. But due to the policy of export, the rice mills of the region have been adversely affected. The ethanol plants, solvent plants have been severely affected. Now again I have come to know that they are asking for additional ten lakh metric tonnes of paddy. Through you Sir, I humbly request the Central government, the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance that kindly look into this issue. Otherwise, thousands of people in this area will become jobless, all the mills will become dysfunctional and the price of paddy will increase in our region if the practice continues. It means cost of rice will shoot up, price of solvent oil and ethanol will also go up. To guard the people from such grave crisis, I request that the notification may be revoked and no new circular may be issued further. Thank you, Sir.