

Need for expeditious procurement of soyabean from farmers in Maharashtra-laid

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Across Maharashtra, the government's procurement of soybean has been slow and inadequate, and farmers have found themselves constrained even further by the regulations regarding procurement. As a result, they have been forced to sell their crop in the open market at as low as Rs 3000 per quintal, much lower than even the already far too conservative MSP of Rs 4892. More than a decade ago, soybean farmers were promised an MSP of Rs 6000 per quintal. Yet today, they are forced to sell it at half that rate. Maharashtra's farmers have already been pushed into a corner by soaring fertilizer prices, bolstered by the government's refusal to exempt fertilizers and their raw materials from GST despite recommendations by the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, and its failure to ensure water security. Now, those who had pinned their hopes of repaying heavy debts on this soybean harvest have now incurred further losses and been forced to take on additional loans due to the unprofitability of this year's crop. I urge the government to look into this crisis urgently and take steps to ease our farmers' plight.