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**Title:** Request the Union Government to provide more funds to State Government of West Bengal to procure more paddy.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, at present, West Bengal has secured the first position in paddy production. This year the paddy production in West Bengal has surpassed the earlier record. The estimated production might be 150 lakh metric tonnes. But the market price of paddy is coming down. The market price, at present, is roughly Rs.350 per quintal. While the minimum support price declared by the Government is Rs.540 per quintal, the market price in West Bengal is Rs.350 per quintal or even less. FCI is not procuring paddy and rice in West Bengal. The West Bengal Government also have come forward to procure the declared minimum of six lakh metric tonnes of rice from the market.

But it is not adequate. It is meagre. So, I urge upon the Union Government to provide more funds to the Government of West Bengal so that they can procure at least 10 per cent of the total production of the paddy this year. Thank you.