

**Title:** Need to safeguard the interests of farmers particularly in Gulbarga Parliamentary Constituency in Karnataka.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the crash in prices of several crops in the State of Karnataka including *toor-dal*, maize, paddy, oil-seeds etc. The farmers of the State have been severely affected by heavy rains, floods and the crash in prices of agricultural produce.

In my constituency, Gulbarga, the farmers are growing *toor-dal*. The farmers of *toor-dal* have to invest a lot of money to grow this crop. Due to increased cost of pesticides and other labour charges, most of the farmers have to take a loan from the banks, cooperative societies and from individuals. The crash in prices will, thus, greatly affect the farmers. The new crop has already reached the market and the price is very low and it has gone lowest so far. Therefore, it is necessary that the following measures are taken:

1. Stop imports of all *toor-dal*;
2. Fix minimum price of Rs.2,000/- per quintal; and
3. FCI and other State Government organisations should intervene in the market and purchase the same from the farmers.

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