

**Title: Regarding the Food Corporation of India's decision to stop procurement of rice due to lack of money.**

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** Sir, I am raising a most important issue which needs the urgent attention of the Government of India.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is the rice bowl of the country. The Government of India has decided to procure 55 lakh metric tonnes of rice this year. So far, they have procured 38 lakh metric tonnes of rice. Due to lack of money, the FCI is not paying the money to the millers. That is why, the FCI stopped the procurement. In Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are agitating. The FCI, and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, have requested the Prime Minister, and Shri Shanta Kumar, to give directions to the Reserve Bank of India to give credit facility to the FCI as a result of which they can procure more. Whatever credit facility has been given to the FCI has been exhausted. Due to lack of money, the procurement process stopped and, that is why, the farmers are agitating.

Secondly, we asked the Government of India to increase the procurement from 55 lakh tonnes of rice to 70 lakh tonnes of rice. Shri Shanta Kumar held already one meeting, but so far, he has not given any direction to the Andhra Pradesh Government. This is a most important issue and, that is why, we are agitating. Therefore, Sir, through you, we are requesting Shri Pramod Mahajan to take up this matter with the Government. The FCI has almost stopped its procurement process. This is an urgent matter of public importance because it relates to thousands of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI):** Sir, we also associate with what Shri Yerrannaidu has said. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Dr. Jagannath, you have given the notice. You can also associate yourself with Shri Yerrannaidu.

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, every time, we are not demanding the Government to give immediate reply. However, this is an urgent matter of public importance which relates to the farming community in Andhra Pradesh. It is a fact that the FCI has stopped its procurement process, and the farmers are agitating. Now, they are planning to start a movement. Moreover, it is a normal thing to provide credit facility to the FCI. It is a matter of urgent public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, you can also associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :** Sir, we endorse the viewpoint of Shri Yerrannaidu. *(Interruptions)* It is also going to aggravate the situation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You can also associate with him.

**SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM):** Sir, it is a very serious situation, and we all associate with what Shri Yerrannaidu has said.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Miryalguda which is one of the rice bowls of the country. I completely concur with Shri Yerrannaidu. I think, the FCI must be given a letter of credit by the RBI and the limit meant for Andhra Pradesh must be raised from 51 lakh tonnes to 75 lakh tonnes. There is tremendous slump in the market. We have been discussing this issue for so many months and for so many Sessions. This Government has not been responsive; it is very unfortunate. I am sure, Members on the BJP side will also endorse my view. It is a view, which cuts across the party barriers.

Sir, I would like to request you to give direction to the Government to do something in the matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Would the Government like to respond to it?

\*m05

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** Sir, during the lunch recess I would contact the concerned Minister and the hon. Prime Minister and convey to them the feelings of the Members of this House.