

**Title: Need to direct Food Corporation of India to procure paddy from farmers at the minimum support price in Orissa.**

**SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR):** Sir, it is a matter of great concern that particularly since last two consecutive years farmers in different parts of the country are facing the serious problem of distress sale of their agricultural products. In my own State, Orissa, this problem has gained a serious dimension and no visible efforts are being made by either the State Government or the Union Government to sort out the problem. On the one hand people are dying of alleged starvation for want of food stuff and on the other hand there is no purchaser for the agricultural products. In the irrigated pockets of Orissa particularly the area coming under the Hirakud Irrigation system in Western Orissa like Jharsuguda, Sambhalpur, Bargarh and Binca, etc., thousands of bags of paddy are lying in different market yards but neither the State Government Agencies nor the Food Corporation of India are coming forward to procure the paddy, resulting in serious hue and cry amongst the farmers. Farmers are compelled to sell their paddy at much below a price than the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately intervene in the matter and direct the Food Corporation of India to forthwith start procurement of paddy from the farmers in Orissa and ensure Minimum Support Price to the cultivators.