

Title: Need to reduce export price of rice to a reasonable level to boost its exports.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR): The Government of India decided to export 20 lakh tonnes of rice to places outside the country. So far none could be exported from Andhra Pradesh. This is due to non-competitiveness of FCI rate of Rs.675 per quintal. Since countries like Vietnam and Thailand are offering rice at US \$ 131 to US \$ 139 for 25 per cent broken and US \$ 147 to US \$ 155 for five per cent broken, our exporters are not able to compete with those countries.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to reduce the export price to a reasonable level to boost exports. I shall also be grateful if the Government of India take action to create more godown space in Andhra Pradesh for procurement of rice, which would ultimately result in purchase of more paddy from the farmers who are in distress in view of huge unsold stock.