

Title: Need to enhance export quota for coarse grains including maize for the State of Karnataka.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): Sir, farmers in Karnataka have been severely hit by the recent price crash of agricultural produce including coarse grains like maize. Huge stocks of maize are lying unsold in *Mandis*. Responding to a request from Karnataka Government, the Centre has offered a package to the State Government whereby maize will be procured at a minimum support price of Rs. 540/- per quintal by the State Government for distribution under the PDS. Similar incentive given to Andhra Pradesh, Centre has undertaken to subsidise the maize procurement by nearly 50 per cent. The maize farmers are agitated over the snail's pace in the procurement of maize by Food Corporation of India and farmers' apprehension that single shower could destroy their maize crop as it has been stored outside the procurement centres.

Further, in order to clear the stocks of maize thus procured, the Karnataka Government has suggested to the Centre to enhance the export quota for coarse grains (including maize) by another 25,000 tonnes. Therefore, I would urge the Centre to convey its approval for both the above proposals. I also request the Central Government to extend the procurement time till the end of May, 2001.