

**Title:** Demand to reconsider the lowering of issue prices and to restore the subsidy to foodgrains.

**\*SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, it has come to our notice through news reports that FCI is going to sell wheat and rice in the open market from its godowns in Punjab at the rate of Rs 650 per quintal, which is Rs 150/- less than the prevailing wholesale price in the State of Kerala. Central Government used to maintain uniformity in the prices of food grains in various States but this move is going to create disparity in different States. Moreover, this lowering of issue price of the open market will only help the traders and hoarders to make profits at the cost of the common man. The rationale behind this, as per the Government's version, is to dispose off the piled up surplus stock of foodgrains in FCI godowns. This crisis of piling up of foodgrains has occurred just because of the recent cut in the subsidy of wheat and rice which is being distributed through PDS. So, the only and the only one solution to this problem is to restore the subsidy. Even today, the Government of Kerala is maintaining a subsidy of Rs 2/- per kilogram of rice, which is distributed through its PDS network. So, sir, the need of the hour is to reconsider the lowering of issue prices and to restore the subsidy to foodgrains, for the benefit of the poor people. This will solve, forever, the problem of stock piling also.

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are two more names listed against the same subject. They can associate themselves with the subject.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhaura, you can just say that you associate yourself on this subject.

**श्री भानु सिंह भौरा (मर्टिडा) :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण मूले पर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सरकार ने अभी फैसला किया है कि खाद्यान्न की कीमतें नहीं बढ़ाई जाएंगी और इससे किसानों में ऐनिक फैल गया है। सब चीजें महंगी हो गई हैं, मशीनरी महंगी हो गई, डीजल महंगा हो गया है। इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि सरकार अपना फैसला वापस ले और खाद्यान्न की कीमतें बढ़ाई जाएं जिससे किसानों को राहत मिल सके।