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Title : Problems being faced by peasants in the country due to non-procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the plight of farmers due to distress sale. This year, the Government has announced Rs. 570 per quintal as the Minimum Support Price for paddy and there is an increase of only Rs. 10 per quintal as compared to last year. When the inflation increased by more than five per cent and sometimes even 10 per cent and above, the Minimum Support Price has been increased only by 1.4 per cent. This is the attitude shown by the Government towards farmers. This is very unfortunate.

Moreover, till date procurement of paddy has not been started by the Food Corporation of India, particularly in the State of West Bengal. So, the poor peasants, particularly small and marginal farmers are being forced to go in for distress sale and they are selling their produce below Rs. 500 per quintal.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to force the Food Corporation of India to start its procurement process immediately, without any further delay. I would also request the Union Government to enhance the Minimum Support Price and fix it at Rs. 600 per quintal, at least, for paddy[[r67](#)].