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Title : Need to take suitable steps to ameliorate the lot of farmers in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD): Agriculture is the mainstay of Bihar specially after Jharkhand was carved out of it. But farmers in the state face all kinds of problems. North Bihar, as is universally known, is ravaged by floods, which have become an annual hardship. Farmers are forced to shift from flooded areas to dry places and they remain there for extended periods. During this period they are unable to work in their fields.

Large areas in my Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency depend upon rainfall for irrigation. For the last two years, it has been struck by drought due to monsoon failure. Nearly a fourth of its Panchayats have been so affected where farmers with their own tube wells cannot operate them due to shortage of power.

Therefore, it is important to help the farmers through procurement of their produce with enhanced quota.

Further, the FCI procured only 6611 mt of rice and that too not from the farmers directly but through Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies. This procurement through middlemen, even if they were cooperative societies, hurt the farmers who did not get the deserved price for their produce.

FCI should set up its godown in Aurangabad to store the procured foodgrains and the procurement should be done directly from the farmers and not through middlemen like Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

I also request the Railway Ministry to allot a rake for Anugrah Narayan Road railway station to facilitate foodgrains buyers from outside the state to lift the desired quantity from the farmers of Aurangabad as was the practice till 2002-03. The Railways had then made a profit of Rs. 1 crore as transportation charges. The arrangement had benefited farmers and the Railways as well.