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Title : Need to provide financial support to onion growers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): In India nearly 65% of the population is farming community. Nearly 70% of our farmers own less than 2 hectares of land and 48% of the farmers are below poverty line. India is wholly depending upon agriculture.

In Tamilnadu nearly 10,000 hectares of onion crops were raised by the farmers. They are spending huge amount of money on fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. But they are not able to get good yield and remunerative price for their produce. Farmers are getting loan either from cooperative institutions or private money lenders. Increasingly farming communities are losing their family members and driven to death by debts and crop failures.

In my Palani Constituency particularly in Dharapuram, Kangayam, Palani and Oddanchatram talukas the farmers main crop is onion. Since they were given spurious onion seeds, their crops were totally spoiled. After agitation by farmers , the seed vendors gave Rs. 2,000 as compensation to each farmer in Pongalur and Dharapuram talukas. Since the seeds were spurious, the farmers were able to reap very less production. Further, the traders are purchasing onion at Rs. 2 per Kg. Maharashtra Government is giving Rs. 3 per kg. as support price to the farmers. Likewise, the Union of India has to take steps to protect onion growers by providing support price or otherwise the farmers will be forced to commit suicide.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take effective steps to protect the farming community particularly those who are cultivating onion.