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Title: Need to procure wheat from domestic market at a higher Minimum Support Price and scrap the deal to import wheat from foreign market.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): The Government has decided to import half a million tonnes of wheat at a price of \$317 to \$330 or Rs. 12,700 - 13,500/- a tonne after having earlier scrapped a tender to import wheat at an average price of \$263 or Rs. 10,500 a tonne in May this year. This will incur a minimum loss of Rs. 125 crore if half a million tonnes of wheat had been bought at May prices. If wheat had been bought in the domestic market the difference would have been larger. The market prices in India are between Rs. 10,000 - 11,000 a tonne. The government has so far bought around 11 million tonnes of new season wheat from domestic farmer at Rs. 8500 per tonne refusing to raise prices even though the prevailing open market price is nearly 20 per cent higher than its fixed procurement price. The Government's buying price sets the market trend in the country and a dip in its granary stocks can trigger a price rise with private traders trying to profit as they did last year when grain prices went up 40 per cent.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to scrap the deal to import wheat at much higher price and procure wheat from our own farmers by raising the minimum support price to the farmers.