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Title: Need to announce early special incentive price for paddy in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Paddy growing farmers particularly in delta districts of Tamil Nadu are upset over the new minimum support price fixed by the Government of India.

The Minimum Support Price for common variety of Paddy is Rs. 645 per quintal and for Grade A variety at Rs. 675 a quintal compared to Rs. 620 and Rs. 650 respectively during the previous year 2006-07. On the other hand, the Minimum Support Price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 850 per quintal including Rs. 100 as incentive bonus. It is an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal compared to last season 2006-07 which was fixed at Rs. 700 per quintal. Moreover, the concession of incentive bonus has not been extended to paddy farmers as it has been extended in favour of wheat producing farmers.

Over the years the cost of cultivation of paddy has increased substantially. Further, there has been a substantial fall in the availability of agriculture labour in rural areas ultimately leading to increase in the labour cost. As such the cultivation cost of paddy is Rs. 9,000 to 10,000 per acre. Thus cost of paddy production works out Rs. 950 to Rs. 1000 per quintal. So there is urgent need to fix Minimum Support Price of paddy at Rs. 1000 per quintal to make it remunerative to paddy growing farmers.

In view of the above, I request the Central Government not to make paddy cultivation unremunerative endangering the food security in the country. Further Minimum Support Price of paddy should be fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal and Special Incentive Price should be announced for paddy without any further delay in the interest of paddy farmers in the country.

* Treated as laid on the Table