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Title: Shortage of fertilizers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (SIVAKASI) : Hon. Chairman, for the last two years the supply and distribution of fertilizer like DAP and Urea throughout the country are seriously hampered. This has seriously affected farmers who carry on agriculture as their livelihood. There used to be an effective distribution mechanism in place. But various factors have come in the way like the widening gap of need and production and also demand and supply. As such 6 million tonnes of gap between the production and supply-distribution has been perceived. As far as Urea is concerned the Central Government comes to the rescue to some extent. Phosphoric fertilizer supplies are to be ensured by the State Governments through their institutions. Government of India has been solving the problem by importing fertilizers. Two of the fertilizer units in Tamil Nadu are not functioning for the past many months and now there is inadequate production. The farmers of Tamil Nadu who are already affected by disputed sharing of inter-state rivers are the worst hit now. The shortage of fertilizers in Tamil Nadu especially phosphoric fertilizer has given rise to a situation which is exploited by the unscrupulous blackmarketeers to thrive at the cost of hapless farmers who are to pay high for fertilizers. The supply and distribution of fertilizer used to be carried out by the centre with a proper mechanism and it needs to be strengthened. Urging upon the Union Government to help overcome the problem of phosphoric fertilizers shortage, I request the Government to ensure proper supply of fertilizer at affordable costs.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.