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Title: Rise in prices of Rice and Onion in Kerala.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, in Kerala, the price of rice and onion has been rising very rapidly of late. This is mainly due to the non-arrival of these products from the neighbouring States. Kerala basically depends on the neighbouring States for its food grains. This has been mainly due to the heavy rains and also due to shortage of wagons to transport these products.

In the case of rice, the main food item for Keralites, the rise in the price of per kilogram of rice has been Rs.2. This has put the ordinary consumers into great difficulty. So, Kerala basically gets rice from Andhra Pradesh for its open market and for the PDS, it gets rice from Chhattisgarh. The State needs about 90,000 tonnes of rice every month, out of which 40,000 is for the open market consumers.

I would request the Central Government to very urgently intervene in this and supply the food grains that are needed for Kerala because from Panditji's time onwards there has been a commitment to give enough food grains for Kerala because Kerala basically cultivates cash crops. So, in this hour of distress, the Central Government should urgently intervene and supply enough food grains, especially, rice to Kerala so that the ordinary consumers are not put to difficulties.