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Title: Need to take steps for fixing of Minimum Support Price for vegetables and fruits in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, particularly, at Tirunelveli District, vegetables and fruits are grown in huge quantities. They are perishable in nature. They cannot be stored for a longer period. Due to inadequate transport, lack of cold storage facilities, financial and other constraints, the farmers are facing lot of difficulties in keeping the harvested fruits and vegetables. They are also not getting adequate price for their produce. Quite often, they are forced to sell their produce at much below the cost price and they are constantly cheated by the middlemen who are amassing huge profits. Generally, the prices of the above items are not fixed by the farmers, the middlemen and the commission agents are fixing the prices.

Sir, every year, Government is fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy, wheat and sugarcane, etc. However, the poor vegetable and fruit growers are not getting even reasonable price for their produce.

Keeping in view of the above, I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for vegetables and fruits and to save the poor farmers who are engaged in the production of the same.