Title: Need for procurement of paddy by F.C.I. in West Bengal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Madam, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Minister for Agriculture regarding the plight of the farmers.

The price of paddy has been declining below the minimum support price. The CACP announced the minimum support price of paddy as Rs. 1000 per quintal. But during harvest season and after that, paddy was not procured at that price and Government declared only Rs. 900 per quintal. The matter is of deep concern. The present scenario is that the price has been declining below the market price and Food Corporation of India is reluctant to procure paddy. Whatever they have procured earlier have been procured from rice mills and not from the paddy producers or farmers.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to take up the matter seriously so that the FCI can start procurement directly from the farmers based on the minimum support price. This is a very important matter and I think the Government should think over it particularly in the interest of the farmers.

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल (झंझारपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं श्री प्रबोध पांडा जी के विषय के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं। [U5] MADAM SPEAKER: Rest of the matters under Zero Hour will be taken up at the end of the day.

MADAM SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.