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Title: Need to purchase the agricultural produce of farmers through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): There is an urgent need to improve the functioning of NAFED all over the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh to benefit the farmers as well as consumers.

Andhra Pradesh is called as the "Rice Bowl of India". Farmers in Andhra Pradesh are toiling very hard in the agriculture production activities of various items. But it seems the farmers are not getting remuneration properly even for their day-to-day livelihood. They are not even able to sell their production in the market. Many middlemen are taking away the genuine profits of farmers and such situation is leading the farmers to leave their profession. This problem exists not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in all over the country.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, to intervene in the matter and take immediate steps to purchase the produce of farmers through NAFED and provide benefit to the farmers and the consumers by restructuring and revamping the NAFED to improve its activities in the remaining XI plan period (2007-12), particularly for Andhra Pradesh.