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Title: Alleged injustice meted out to potato growers.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Madam Speaker, West Bengal is the second largest producer of potato in the country. Production of potato has increased to 95 lakh tonnes in 2010 from 55 lakh tonnes in 2009. ...(*Interruptions*)

There has been discrimination in the distribution of potatoes. Farmers are selling their produce at throw away prices. Persons who buy potatoes from farmers in the villages are selling at a good price in the market. But farmers who put their sweat are left in the lurch literally. This trend of squeezing gullible farmers is going on for a long time. Farmers are losing heavily. Corruption is rampant in purchase of produce, particularly potatoes in West Bengal....(*Interruptions*)

Dr. Ratna De, please continue.

DR. RATNA DE : All this injustice is going on for a long time because there is no Government agency to buy directly from farmers their produce by paying an honourable price. The farmers are incurring losses in West Bengal.

I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to look into this serious injustice meted out to the potato farmers of West Bengal and to introduce Minimum Support Price for potatoes in West Bengal so that farmers are not taken for a ride by anyone. Thank you, Madam.