

>

Title : Need to purchase stock of boiled rice by F.C.I.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : Sir, the stocks of boiled rice are piling up in Andhra Pradesh. As per one estimate, a total of 48 lakh tonnes of boiled rice are lying, out of which, 28 lakh tonnes are lying with rice millers and another 20 lakh tonnes with suitable paddy for boiled rice are with farmers. In this connection, I may submit that because of lack of demand the millers are not purchasing boiled rice from the farmers and out of distress the farmers are selling the boiled rice at a throw away price. Even then many millers are not coming forward to buy the boiled rice from farmers.

The new agricultural season has started and if these stocks are not cleared, the rice millers will not enter into the market to purchase new boiled rice. Our hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, has written a detailed letter to the Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Shard Pawarji, highlighting the present problems of paddy farmers of the State.

Sir, to overcome this urgent and sensitive farmers' problem, I would request the Union Minister of Agriculture to intervene and purchase the stocks of boiled rice through FCI or come with alternative plans like export of this boiled rice immediately.