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Title: Need to establish seed banks in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate easy availability of seeds to the farmers.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House towards the need to establish seed banks not only in Andhra Pradesh but all over the country in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12).

As the House is aware that the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are facing hardships in getting quality seeds at the sowing time. During the last 4 years, the farmers are unable to get the quality seeds in time. Last year, the farmers could not get the seeds during sowing season and for this they had to wait in line from dawn to dusk. Many old-aged people and women died in the long standing queues due to heavy summer and a number of farmers could not start the sowing due to lack of seeds.

It seems the concerned authorities are not taking proper precautions before time i.e. to have sufficient production and distribution of quality seeds. It is observed that the same seeds are available with middlemen in open market at huge rates and poor farmers cannot afford such high rates during the sowing season.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, through the Chair, to kindly take steps in establishing seeds banks, better production, transport and distribution of quality seeds through Seed Village Schemes so that we can fulfil the demands of farmers at least in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan to help them in getting better income and to keep the agricultural profession live for our future generation also.

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MR. CHAIRMAN : Item No. 20, the Finance Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. We will take up after this