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Title: Need to fix the Minimum Support Price for Paddy.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL) : Paddy is essential for food and also reflects our culture. From our birth to death it travels with us in one form or another. During the year 1960, if an agriculturist sold 4 bags of paddy he could have purchased 10 grams of gold. Hence, paddy is considered to be the yardstick of our economic life. Now, things have changed drastically. As per present day calculation, if the paddy is sold at Rs. 3900 per bag, one can sell 4 bags of paddy and purchase 10 grams of gold. But the pity is one has to sell 25 bags of paddy to purchase 10 grams of gold. That has been the prevailing price structure. Hence, so many fertile lands are kept fallow. As a result, the peasant is in heavy debt burden. As the prices of inputs like fertilizers and pesticides have gone up and simultaneously agricultural labour charges have increased, so it is fair and reasonable if the price of paddy per quintal is sold at Rs. 2000. Hence, I urge the Government to fix the Minimum Support Price of Paddy at Rs. 2000/- per quintal. This is most urgent to save the farmers from committing suicide. Only by this step of Government, we can save the farmer from running away from field.