

>

Title: Need to extend agricultural loan to farmers and provide adequate quantity of subsidized fertilizers to them in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): In Tamil Nadu, like several other parts of India, cultivation activities have started. This is the time when the farmers require loan to meet the expenses on purchase of agricultural inputs and to spend on agricultural activities like ploughing, planting and weeding. Complaints have come from many farmers about the lackadaisical attitude of both the Cooperative Banks and the Nationalized Banks to extend loans for these operative expenses. As far as cooperative bodies are concerned, they are guided by the national policy and in Tamil Nadu, they have been operating effectively. Hence, the Cooperative Banks in Tamil Nadu must not desist from extending loans to farmers for the basic need to commence cultivation on time. Procurement Centres are also facing closure in many of places and Regulated Market Centres are also not functioning effectively. This has led farmers to face the problem of non-availability of funds required. The exorbitant rise in fertilizer prices in the international market has created an uncertainty in India where our Government comes forward to hold talks with private fertilizer factories and extend subsidy to help farmers. Private sector fertilizer companies are not coming forward to evolve a consensus on fixing affordable price for farmers. This has given rise to short supply and scarcity.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that farmers get agricultural loan in time and fertilizers are made available to them at the time of their need. It has also been forecast that this year's monsoon will be less and hence it calls for immediate measures on the part of the Union Government to issue appropriate guidelines to the States and to ensure that the efforts of our farmers comes out with a rich yield.