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Title: Need to enhance the support price of paddy to Rs. 35 per kilogram.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance related to my constituency.

Out of the Support Price of paddy fixed at Rs.22.50 per kg. for the year 2016-17, Rs. 14.70 was to come from the Central Government and the rest would come from the State Government. No decision has been taken in this regard for the year 2017-18.

In Kuttanad, Kerala, 46,840 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured so far which comes to 70 per cent of the total production. About 9512 farmers are engaged in paddy cultivation in Kuttanad. The price of Rs.22.50 per kg., which farmers are getting, is not sufficient. Recently, the Government of India enhanced the price of Copra but the Support Price of paddy was not increased.

In open market in Kerala the price of rice has shot up to Rs.50 per kg. but the farmers are getting very low price for their produce. Presently, the State of Kerala is facing severe drought and there is alarming water scarcity everywhere. The climatic change has adversely affected the farmers in Kuttanad. Besides, the labour charges have gone up and other miscellaneous expenses have increased. I am talking about the farmers...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding, Sir.

Due to severe drought in Kuttanad, paddy crop is affected by *munja* disease. Other diseases like *Pattlapuzha* and *Varinellu* have adversely affected the paddy crop. Due to spread of disease to thousands of acres of cultivable land under paddy, the farmers have suffered heavy losses. The Government of Kerala has not given any assistance to face this calamity.

Thousands of paddy farmers have suffered heavy losses as sea water has entered their fields. The Government of Kerala has not given any assistance to mitigate the loss.

â€¦(लक्ष्मण)

माननीय सभापति: आपका प्वाइंट आ गया है। आप अपनी डिमांड बताइए।

â€¦(लक्ष्मण)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I am concluding, Sir.

The paddy farmers in Kuttanad have suffered huge losses due to rains during the harvesting season.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are reading. You just place your demand.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, because of the extraordinary situation being faced by paddy farmers, they are suffering serious financial crisis....*(Interruptions)*