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Title: Need to extend the procurement deadline in order to facilitate the groundnut farmers in Coastal Balipal Block of Odisha to sell their produce to NAFED.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity during 'Zero Hour' to raise an issue of very serious importance of my constituency. I come from Balasore in Odisha. Balasore is known to most of us. It is a place where Agni and various other test missiles get fired. Many of us do not know that it is a place where more than 76 per cent people depend on agriculture. I have been trying for the last several days to get this issue addressed, but I could not. Hence this is an effort to bring this issue to this august House.

Sir, the farmers of my area produce groundnut. NAFED is an institute of the Government of India which does the procurement of groundnut every year. This year, the last date for procurement of groundnut is 30th June. But the fact remains that the entire quantum of groundnut has not been produced by 30th June. I have been putting a lot of effort and request to several agencies to please extend this date at least by ten to 15 days so that the poor farmers of my area will be able to give their produce to NAFED. This year, the produce has been delayed because of unseasonal monsoon and things like that. It is my submission that NAFED should take into account this submission and extend it by ten to 15 days so that the farmers will get at least Rs.10,000 more than the hoarders and traders who are trying to catch hold of this produce. This is my submission. I would request the hon. Minister through you, to take this into account.