

an>

Title: Regarding fall in the prices of onion.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the plight of farmers growing onion and maize as they are on the streets. For the last few weeks, they have been on an agitation because of crash in the prices of their produce. The prices of onion were in the range of Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,600 per quintal during the last year at the same time. Now, the prices have come down to Rs. 100 per quintal. So, the farmers have thrown their onions on the streets and they are on an agitation, especially in the northern parts of Karnataka and more especially in my constituency, that is, Hubli-Dharwad, Gadak and all those areas. The farmers who have grown maize are also facing the same problem. Its price is less than Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 per quintal.

The farmers, who have grown both these crops, are on an agitation. The State Government is not at all procuring their produce at MSP. In spite of lot of agitation by the farmers, the State Government has just announced ...(*Interruptions*) Madam, let me finish. Then, he can reply.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आपस में बात मत कीजिए। Let him say.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Madam, I am telling on record that the State Government has not opened the procurement centre so far. If he can contest, let him contest it later. Due to this, farmers are suffering a lot.

I also urge upon the Central Government to direct the State Government to immediately open the procurement centre with MSP support. Secondly, I also urge upon the Central Government to ban import of onions temporarily so that the farmers can be helped.

I would also urge upon the Central Government once again to direct the State Government to open the procurement centre so far as onion and maize are concerned.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री बी.एन. चन्द्रप्पा - उपस्थित नहीं।

श्री पी.पी. चौधरी।