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Title: Need to continue the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in the country.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): India is having an Agriculture based economy. At the same time Indian Agriculture depends on unpredictable Monsoon. Considering this fact, Government of India during 1999 had announced NAIS (National Agriculture Insurance Scheme). Crop Insurance is the only weather-proofing mechanism available to millions of our farmers to mitigate the impact of adverse climatic conditions.

But it is unfortunate that Government of India suddenly withdrew the NAIS scheme during November 2013 and the same has been communicated to all state Governments and we came to know that certain states are strongly exposed to the withdrawal of the scheme.

The decision taken by the Government of India to withdraw the NAIS and replace it with the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) from Rabi 2013 is a rude shock to the farmers.

The introduction of the NCIP increased the burden of premium on the farmers of Tamil Nadu manifold. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had requested the Government of India to permit implementation of NAIS instead of NCIP.

Under the new National Crop Insurance Programme, there is no remunerative Price for agriculture produces. Further, the input cost has increased enormously, there is lack of sufficient manpower for agricultural activities and required machineries are not available. The department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India in its website stated that a new Crop Insurance Programme based on crop yield and income would be rolled out shortly. It is requested that the Government of Tamil Nadu may be permitted to continue with implementation of NAIS during next year also on the existing pattern of sharing of premium subsidy and compensation, as the operational modalities of the proposed new Crop Insurance Programme yet are to be chalked out.