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Title: Regarding losses caused to farmers due to delay in procurement of paddy by the Government in Sindhudurg-Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra.

*SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG) : Today is World Marathi Day. So I would like to speak in Marathi in this Zero Hour.

Hon. Madam Speaker, especially Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg is the area of paddy growers. There has been a system of procurement of rice by Government for last many years. But there is no procurement of rice this year by Government. Hence the farmers are adversity affected. So, the agents are making profit by procuring rice at minimal prices. Last time the rate was Rs. 1340 per quintal. This year it was expected that the procurement rate should be Rs. 2000. Unfortunately Government has not opened the rice procurement centres. So, the agents are procuring rice at the rate of Rs. 700-800 per quintal. The farmers are helpless and facing problems.

So, I would like to request Union Government to issue orders to Maharashtra Government to open rice procurement centres in Konkan area and give relief to the paddy growers of this area. Thank you. Jai Hind Jai Maharashtra.