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Title: Need to reduce the minimum export price of onions.

SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards increasing the minimum export price of onions to US \$ 700. This year, in Maharashtra, especially in Nashik District, due to late Kharif season, onions are going to be produced in a huge quantity.

13.00 hours

Near about 80 lakh metric tonnes of onion production is expected up to March 2016. Our country needs 10 lakh metric tonnes per month, that is, our country needs about 40 lakh metric tonnes of onion up to March 2016. That means, the balance of 40 lakh metric tonnes of onion will be surplus as per NAFED record. This onion has less shelf life and it is perishable. It cannot be stored also. The Government has increased the MEP of onion up to 700 dollars. Due to this increase, India has lost supply of onion as per the demand of the international market. Taking advantage of this, the onion growing countries like Pakistan, Egypt, China and Iran have captured the international market by keeping the MEP at 300 dollars. Because of excess production of onion in the market and no export demand, there is continued drastic price decrease. Before 15 days, the price of onion was Rs.2,800 per quintal; about eight days before it was Rs.1200 per quintal; and before two days, it was Rs.500 per quintal. If the MEP is not reduced, farmers will have to throw the onion on the road. The farmers have already suffered heavy loss. They have got only this crop as a cash crop by which they can survive for some period. Farmers are also under huge burden of various loans. There is a fear of increase of farmers' suicide. I would request the Ministry of Commerce to take immediate action to reduce the MEP of onion as compared to other onion growing countries up to 300 dollars so that the price of onion will not decrease drastically and farmers will have some relief.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya,

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde,

Shri Shrirang Appa Bame,

Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav,

Shri Arvind Sawant,

Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut,

Shri Rajan Vichare and

Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse.