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Title: Need to provide subsidy at the rate of 50% on investment upto Rs.10 lakh on agricultural machinery.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important issue of my State relating to agriculturists.

Sir, I hail from Bargarh parliamentary constituency, where more than 70 per cent of people are farmers. Bargarh will now become a trial balloon for politicians of national importance. Nobody is going to address the real problems of farmers.

I want to appeal through you, Sir, to our hon. Agriculture Minister to give some subsidy to farmers.

Now-a-days, combine harvester is gaining popularity among the farmers of Odisha. The Government of India has devised the subsidy pattern of different agricultural machinery and implements except combine harvester for individual farmers. The most vital part of paddy cultivation happens to be harvesting which is not only cumbersome but also time and labour consuming. As per estimates, a sum of Rs.17,500 is spent on an average for harvesting one hectare of land by traditional method while only Rs.6,250 is spent when combine harvester is used. Besides, farmers can save a lot of time and utilize it for other purposes.

In this backdrop, I would like to impress upon the Government of India, through you, Sir, for the consideration of making a provision of 50 per cent subsidy limited to Rs.10 lakh for an individual ownership for the purchase of machine.

Thank you.