

Title: Need to direct Food Corporation of India to purchase paddy from farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM): Paddy is the main crop in Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. The farmers are committing suicide being overburdened with perpetual debts. This is all because justice is not being done in fixing the prices of paddy. The cost of farming, i.e., diesel, power charges, manures, pesticides, wages and other inputs are increasing substantially bringing the cost of production of paddy to above Rs.700 per quintal and the minimum support price fixed is only Rs.440 and Rs.470 for coarse and fine varieties. The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting even this price. This is because the Food Corporation of India is not procuring paddy directly from the farmers as is being done in Punjab and Haryana. They have to sell the paddy to the rice millers at less than the minimum support price. After rice millers procure total quantity of paddy from the farmers, the prices of paddy suddenly go up. This is an unfortunate situation which should be looked into by the FCI and the FCI should be instructed to lift the entire stock of paddy from farmers in Andhra Pradesh directly. I request the Central Government that the entire quantity which includes the damaged and discoloured paddy due to frequent rains and cyclone, be procured by the Food Corporation of India.

(ends)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): Please allow me for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be allowed after completion of matters under rule 377.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): I am only associating with this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiv Shanker, you have not given your notice.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER ;I am associating. That is all. I am not saying anything at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member. You know the rule.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): We can always say that we can associate with the Member who has already said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Once you ask, then everybody will ask for their turns.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is only association. I am not saying anything. That is all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. He has not said anything. He associated with it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No further discussion is allowed on this.