

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

an>

Title: Need to protect farmers from black market of products.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Hon. Speaker, I would like to raise an important and urgent issue to safeguard the interests of our citizens. India is basically an agricultural country, but farming in Tamil Nadu is at an alarming level. They are the least spoken people by Indian media. As a producer, our farmers cannot determine the price of their products. There are plenty of middlemen who procure at a cheap rate and sell through black market at a high price when the demand is more. Many farmers who are doing farming, generation after generation, are now leaving farming and are working as unskilled labour in other sectors. They do not want their kids to do farming as practically there is no career growth. The Government should relax its norms and it should allow farmers to declare the price of their goods along with limited controls to safeguard consumers' interest. Immediate action on this issue may stop farmers' suicides... (*Interruptions*).

Madam, secondly, we cannot dream of eating rice and vegetables, if procurement and production goes in the hands of corporate companies. They will decide their own selling price. Friends, if we would not support the farmers now, then, believe me, we would be digging graves not only for us but for our future generations too... (*Interruptions*).

Thirdly, many have started earning money through real estate. Farmers have started selling their land for cash and these real estate people destroy the farmland for creating townships... (*Interruptions*).

HON. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C. Gopalakrishnan...

(*Interruptions*)