

### Mechanical Voice Dictation

Mr. Chairman, the Government has now declared the Minimum Support Price because the farmers are not getting the price of their produce. They are forced to sell their produce below the cost resulting in huge losses to them. A few days back this has come in all the Newspapers. You must be knowing that in search of jobs, people have migrated from backward districts to other parts of the country. The W.T.O. Agreement has posed another problem for us. The member countries who have signed the agreement have provided many safeguards in the agreement itself. They can provide all possible subsidy to bring about a balance in supply and demand. That is how they maintain the economic status of the people who are engaged in agriculture in other countries. There is a system of making direct payment to the farmer whereby their economic status is lifted. But in our country, sometimes we withdraw subsidy and hence the prices of agriculture inputs like fertilizers, seeds etc. are rising like anything. As a result of this, the cost of production is increasing whereas the farmers are not getting remunerative price. I do not wish to take much time of the House. I would request the Honorable Minister to answer a few things which are very important. Firstly, the godowns available in all the States must be made available to the respective States to keep their surplus food grains. Secondly, the Government should encourage the farmers to come forward to produce more grains so that the cost of production goes down to a reasonable level. Thirdly, the Minister must spell out the mechanism that he is trying to build up to minimise the price of agricultural inputs, Sir, as you are aware that during natural calamities like cyclone and drought, the farmers suffer heavy losses. Therefore, crop insurance scheme is very important scheme, and the Government should take measures to all the areas.