

Seventeenth Loksabha

>

Title: Request to provide pending amount of last year sugarcane crop to farmers of Punjab and withdraw the case lodged against the farmers and ample compensation amount be provided to the farmers.

***SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** I thank you, hon. Speaker Sir. Today, I want to raise a very serious issue. As per Sugar Act, 1966, the sugarcane growing farmers must get money from sugar mills within 14 days, otherwise they must pay interest to the farmers.

Sir, in 2020 and 2021-2022, the government rates were Rs.360/- per quintal. Mills were providing Rs.325/- and Rs.35/- was being given by the Punjab government. The mills are providing Rs.325/- but the bonus of Rs.35/- is not being provided to them.

Sir, in my constituency Sangrur, Dhuri, Bhagwanpura, there are mills. But it is painful to know that 1.25 crores Rs. of last year and Rs.20 crores of this year are yet to be provided to the farmers.

Sir, sugarcane crop is sown and reaped only once every year. So, for the sugarcane farmers, after he cuts the sugarcane crop, the land becomes useless.

Sir, pink worms are wreaking havoc in several foodgrains but no compensation has been provided to the farmers. Sir, during the protests by farmers against black laws, 743 farmers sacrificed their lives. No compensation has been provided to the families of these farmers. FIRs have been lodged against the farmers.

So, sir, I want to draw the attention of the Central government towards the miserable condition of farmers. The Centre accepted its mistake and withdrew the black laws. The need of the hour is to withdraw the cases lodged against the farmers. Ample compensation must be provided to the farmers for their deaths, so that their families do not suffer.

In the end, I would like to quote the lines of Punjabi poet Sant Ram Udasi:

“The Jat farmer is crying miserably,
Rivers of tears are flowing,
It is the misfortune of the farmer
that he is being ignored,
In the end, only the husk remains
with the farmer.”

The sugarcane and cotton of farmers must be given adequate compensation so that those who fill the granary of the country do not go hungry themselves.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri -- not present.

Shri T. N. Prathapan