

ers. Whereas, the master-weavers, not only reduced the off-load but also the wages to compensate the price increase of yarn. In fact, the State Textile Development Corporation which opened its branch in November, 1988 at Chirala (Guntur District) is still not in a position to provide continuous work due to severe financial crunch. For instance, out of 1200 members registered with it, only 400 to 500 are being employed, that too, not continuously

Finally, what I would like to bring to your kind notice is that though the Andhra weaver is second to none in skill and efficiency, he or she is not getting enough work to do. And of course, handloom industry is the second largest employment source, next only to Agriculture, in the State.

It is, in this backdrop, I request the concerned Ministers to treat the matter on war-footing so as to provide relief to the people by supplying yarn, the other materials at cheap rates and providing the daily work. This is essential as recurrence of such deaths can be prevented in future.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I hope the Ministers are listening to this important issue. I think they are not even listening to this important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw Government's attention towards the plight of crores of sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh. A very critical situation has arisen in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh has a total population of 12 crores and sugarcane is the main source of livelihood to majority of the populace. There are 105 sugarmills in U.P. Most of them are obsolete and in a dilapidated condition and they have a crushing capacity of 800 to 1200 tonnes only. They have been running in losses to the tune of crores of rupees. Today the mill owners owe crores of rupees to sugarcane growers. At present, the recoveries, both Governmental and non-Govern-

mental are made from the farmers. As a result, the property of farmers are being attached and arrest warrants are being issued against them. The farmers are not getting their due payment, despite being in possession of slips received from sugar mills. Through you, I would like to submit to the Union Government that there are only two ways to keep the sugarcane growers of U.P. alive. The first remedy is to provide necessary machinery for the expansion of 800-1200 tonne capacity sugar mills into 2500 tonne capacity units. Secondly, it would be difficult to crush the entire sugarcane produce in the absence of new Sugar mills. I would also like to mention here that there are two rates for sugarcane in U.P. viz. Rs. 45/- paid by sugar factories and Rs. 30/- to Rs. 35/- paid by crushers. I would also like to submit here that arrears to the tune of billions of rupees are pending against sugar mill owners. Earlier, the Union Government has waived loans of Rs. 1200 crore to provide relief to the farmers. I request the Central Government to direct the banks to accept the slips from sugarcane growers as mortgaged property and make the payment thereof in order to clear their arrears and enable them to sustain themselves. I feel that this is a practical suggestion and the Government should pay its attention towards it(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem faced by the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh is indeed a serious one. The farmers are not getting their payment and they won't grow sugarcane in the coming year—
— (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD (Jahanabad): Sir, Shri Saryu Prasad, the brave young driver of the Masaudi city branch of the State Bank of India, located in the