

Title: Need to protect the interests of sugarcane growers, particularly of Moradabad District of Western U.P.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (MORADABAD): Madam Chairperson, Moradabad district is a major sugarcane growing area of Western U.P. and has a few sugar mills that are mostly sick units. Bilari and Chandaursi Tehsils are particularly high growing areas of sugarcane and it is a major source of income for the farmers there. The sugar mill at Raja-ka-Sahaspur in Bilari Tehsil is under the BIFR and owes its farmers a lot of money in arrears. Repeated requests to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide relief to farmers and arrange for their arrears to be paid have been in vain. Initiative by the Central Government is imperative if the sugarcane producing areas are to be preserved, by either setting up a Centrally aided co-operative mill or by impressing upon the U.P. Government the great need to do so in the larger national interest. If this major problem remains unaddressed, the farmers will stop growing sugarcane and that would be a national loss, which we can ill afford.