

Title: Demand to increase the support price of sugarcane upto Rs. 1000 per tonne and early payments of the arrears to the sugarcane growers by the mill owners in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise here to make a mention about the pathetic plight of the sugarcane growers who supply sugarcane to private sugar mills in Tamil Nadu. Out of 33 sugar mills in Tamil Nadu, 15 are in private sector.

The Central Government for the year 1999-2000 has announced Rs. 561 as statutory minimum price for one tonne sugarcane linked with 8.5 per cent recovery. Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu has not yet announced the SAP.

The State Government of Haryana has already announced the SAP for the current year as Rs.1,100 per tonne.

The private sugar mill owners in Tamil Nadu are challenging the authority of the State Government to fix the SAP. The Sugarcane Control Act of 1966 stipulates that cane growers should be paid within 15 days of supply of sugarcane. But because of this violation of the Act, about three lakh cane growers are affected.

To save the cane growers of Tamil Nadu, I make the following submission to the Centre: -

(1) The SMP should be increased to Rs.1,000/- since it is just half of the SAP given by Haryana;

(2) The Central Government should warn the private sugar mill owners of Tamil Nadu to accept both SMP and SAP and make immediate payments to the cane growers.