

16.20 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Re: Problems being Faced by Sugarcane Growers  
in the Country**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 29 of the Agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I had given a notice of Breach of Privilege. Hon. Shri Sharad Yadav made a statement on 12th with regard to Munderva Basti incident...*(Interruptions)* That statement has no concern with truth. The Government have reported that only one farmer died in said incident, whereas Shri Mulayam Singh mentioned the names of three farmers who had died in the incident. All the three farmers died during police firing, whereas the Government states that police did not open fire...*(Interruptions)* I mean facts had been distorted. It is a very serious matter. I want your ruling on this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no doubt that it is a very serious matter. However, I would like to state that kindly mention all this when you raise the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information furnished by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh ji, when you participate in the discussion on this matter you express your point of view. The Government will give a clarification in this regard during reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice in this regard. When I went there I was arrested...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the discussion start.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice in this regard. The notices for

Adjournment Motion have been given and also under Rule 193...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): What do you want, you want discussion or not?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Entire House is being misled. The State Government has provided false information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If it is so, the hon. Speaker would examine the notice for Breach of Privilege given by you. What are you going to achieve by stalling this discussion?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may raise this matter while participating in the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What will you achieve by stalling the discussion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister will reply to all this. Kindly let this discussion be started.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Please inform the Hon. Speaker.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank you for giving me an opportunity to initiate the discussion as this is an important issue which has been taken up for discussion under Rule 193.

On 12th December, the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Yadav, made a statement in this august House regarding the problems faced by sugarcane growers in our country. He made a statement in regard to the agitation of cane growers in Basti, Uttar Pradesh and with regard to the police firing on sugarcane farmers on 11th December. The statement has come amidst the heated discussion in Lok Sabha on that day on the incident of police firing on farmers.

It was reported that three sugarcane farmers have been killed by police firing. The report generated such a

heat this House had to be adjourned for the first time in this Winter Session.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister could realise the situation, and he kindly intervened and gave an assurance in this House. I would like to quote the assurance given by the Prime Minister. It says:

"If the police is found guilty, then they will definitely be responsible. This matter is above partisan politics. The farmers must get remunerative prices for their produce and I feel that what they are getting now is not adequate. However, I have been informed that the court has imposed restrictions on the prices. If this is correct, then all of us can sit across the table and decide about fixing the minimum remunerative price."

But the statement made by the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Yadav, did not reflect that assurance. It shows the attitude of the Government to the farmers and the attitude of the Minister concerned to the sugarcane farmers.

16.27 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

The situation is such that the sugarcane growers are burning their crops just like their own babies, and they are blocking the roads to get the remunerative prices. Lots and lots of sugarcane growers are facing such a serious problem as they could not save their produce.

In most of the areas in the Western UP, Uttaranchal, Bihar and even in the South, and in large parts of the country, lakhs and lakhs of sugarcane farmers are facing such problems. My point is whether the Government has realised the real plight of the farmers or not.

The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. This question is very much pertinent not only to sugarcane growers but also to the farmers of other produces. For paddy producers, jute producers, tomato producers, coconut producers and other farmers, this question of getting remunerative price is very related. My point is whether the Government is thinking to have any national policy to procure and to guarantee minimum support price for these farmers. Nothing has appeared in the Statement that has been placed in this august House. Why is the Government not taking a considered view on this?

The Prime Minister had said that all of us can sit across the table to decide about fixing of the minimum

price. Is the Government thinking on this line? Have they got such a proposal? This is not reflected in his statement. So, I think, while you reply to the debate in this august House, you will say whether you are thinking to arrange such a meeting to resolve the problem.

On the other hand, the sugarcane industries are really in a battle for survival. They are unable to bear the burden of unsold stock. It has appeared in the Press that the sugarcane industries are willing to pay the Minimum Support Price for sugarcane, as prescribed by the Central Government. It is Rs. 65 to Rs. 80 per quintal. We have seen in the newspapers what has happened in UP. Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and other Members from UP can tell us very well. They are very much acquainted with the problem. The price recommended by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is ranging between Rs. 90 and Rs. 95 per quintal. So, this is the difference. The Minimum Support Price offered by the State Government is between Rs. 90 and Rs. 95. The Minimum Support Price subscribed by the Union Government is between Rs. 65 and Rs. 80. I do not know how far it is true. But if that happens, it is a matter of serious concern. Yes, the Minimum Support Price is co-related with the levy price, the price at which the man sells it to the Government for public distribution. But the problem in the retail price is that it is below the levy price. So, how are they thinking to resolve this problem?

I have got a report that the Maharashtra Government had also offered a good subsidy to the sugarcane farmers. There is also a proposal to subsidise export and minimise the excise duty. I do not know how far it is true. I think the Government will think over it.

In regard to the incidents of police firing it is a matter of serious concern. It happened not only in Uttar Pradesh but also at many other places. In Delhi itself, such an incident took place. There was police lathi-charge on the demonstration led by the farmers. So, this is a serious matter. I rise to raise this point for discussion. I think the Government will think over it. This is my concrete proposal. You please arrange an all-Party meeting and invite all the *kisan* organisations, the representatives of the sugarcane industry and try to resolve the matter. The problem is that the sugarcane growers are not able to cut their sugarcane.

If the situation does not progress within a week or a fortnight or a month, it would take a very serious turn. This is a very important matter, which should be discussed here. I want the Government to treat this as the most important matter. So, I have risen here to raise this matter for an in-depth study.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Madam, Chairman, I am highly thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the problems being faced by the farmers. The reason for today's discussion is—dharna being staged by the farmers in front of the Sugar Factory at Munderva in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh, demanding payment of outstanding arrears and firing on agitating farmers by police wherein some farmers died. If this incident had not taken place, perhaps this discussion would not have taken place. Main issue is that if this problem is not solved, every other day firing will take place. Earlier also fire was opened on sugarcane growers. It took place in Ramkola, Padrauna and now in Munderva. If this issue is not resolved immediately the problem will linger on. It is not an issue pertaining to any particular political party. When hungry farmers resort to agitation, they will not listen to anyone. I would like to know from the Government and leaders of all the political parties to cite any example where payment is not made for the goods supplied except to the sugarcane growers. It is not just the question of one or two crore rupees. Leave aside the whole country nearly Rs. 1000 crore of sugarcane growers is outstanding in UP alone and Rs. 100 crore is outstanding in my parliamentary constituency where the police resorted to firing.

Kanpur Sugar Factory is closed. This single mill owes Rs. 14 crore to sugarcane growers which has not been paid. As per the existing law if payment is not made within 15 days the mill is liable to pay 15 percent penal interest thereon. However, not to speak of interest, even principle amount is not being paid. Further, it is not clear whether the Government are aware of this fact or not. The Government constituted BIFR, but it failed to take any decision so far. This organisation is a useless body where officers are busy in merely claiming TA/DA. It is so useless that no case could be settled during the last 8-10 years.

As per the reports we have received there is resentment amongst the farmers not only in UP but throughout the country. As on 12th instant, crushing of sugarcane has started only in 305 mills out of 520 mills in the country. Mills in UP are in worst condition. 81 mills are reported to have started functioning in UP and only 5-10 mills have started in Uttaranchal and 117 mills in Maharashtra and 22 in Gujarat. Bihar is worst affected where only 2 out of 28 mills have started functioning. Thus resentment is brewing everywhere. The hon. Minister may please tell when did the sugarmills start crushing sugarcane last year and this year why there is so much delay? Farmers used to sow wheat in lakhs of acres of

land after harvesting of sugarcane is over. However, this year as the mills have not started crushing sugarcane, therefore sugarcane harvesting has not been done and wheat had not been sown too. So, it is not clear what will happen now and whether this problems will be resolved or not? I am happy that when the issue was raised by Shri Mulayam Singh ji the Hon. Prime Minister intervened in the matter.

I, too, have been actively pursuing the sugar politics for a long time, but this is the first instance that hon. Prime Minister has intervened and admitted that injustice is being done to the farmers. Therefore, injustice should not be done. The people guilty of opening fire should be punished and the problems of farmers be solved. Sugarcane arrears should be paid to the farmers and the problem should be solved once and for all. It is the first time that the Hon. Prime Minister has intervened and all our hon. Ministers may be knowing it. I hope the Hon. Prime Minister will surely translate the promise made during visit to Gorakhpur, while appreciating problems of sugarcane growers, that their arrears will be cleared and mills will start functioning soon. Incidentally same party is in power, in Centre and the State and if even now justice is not done to the farmers, then...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The farmer is facing problems due to the lackadaisical approach of both centre and the State...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Situation in your State is even worse. Running sugar mills have become problematic. Ten-fifteen sugar mills of corporation have been closed and how long the mills could be run on subsidy? Debate would be held in future too but one thing is sure that sugar mills at Munderva, Deoria, Betalpur, Ramkola and Laxmiganj are not going to start again. Every mill is increasing loss to the tune of Rs. 3-3½ crore. Arrears are not being paid to 5-6 lakh sugarcane growers. In case of public sector sugar mills, payment is not being made at all. Private mill owners refuse to buy sugarcane at this rate. Imported sugar is cheaper and sugar producing countries give subsidy to their sugar exporters. As per the reports available with me their Governments give subsidy of Rs. 450 per quintal. I have come to know that the Government of Maharashtra is also going to give subsidy of Rs. 100 per quintal...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Haryana is paying Rs. 100 per quintal.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Imparted sugar is cheap. Its landed cost is Rs. 1085 per quintal. Even in

India the situation in North is very much different from what is prevailing in South. If the Government do not pay attention, sugarcane growers of North India will be ruined. Sugar recovery in North is about 9-9 1/2, whereas in Maharashtra it is 11-12. The Government will have to ponder over it. Unless we have National Sugar Policy it is difficult to manage things. Earlier the Government used to give subsidy to the sugar mills with a capacity of 800-1000 tonne, but it has been withdrawn now. Subsidy used to be given during the Congress regime. But present Government has stopped subsidy. In my State 30-35 sugar mills of Sugar Corporation are lying closed. So the big question is whether these are to be revived now? Recovery of these mills is not even 8-8 1/2. Therefore, how these can compete with the mills where recovery is 9 1/2-10? A resolution, 8-10 years back, was passed for augmentation of crushing capacity of three sugar mills, namely Betalpur, Laxamiganj and Piprai. These factories acquired land, but so far no action has been taken in this regard. It is a question of their future and viability. Therefore, if it is not taken up now then when will it be tackled? If capacity of these mills is not augmented and these are not able to purchase sugarcane, which ultimately is to be burnt, sugarmills will get closed. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to augment capacity of mills with existing capacity of 800-1000 tonnes. Mills, including the mills belonging to Sugar Corporation, are running in loss. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether capacity of mills will be augmented? Leave aside everything, but even if the capacity of above three mills, whose capacity augmentation was approved earlier, is increased to 400 tonne, the problem before farmers will be over. You people will be surprised to know that I am also a sugarcane grower and only a few MPs grow sugarcane. Even mine Rs. 50-60 thousand have not been paid by the mill owners for the last 9-10 years. Situation has come to such a pass that farmers are forced to sell sugarcane at Rs. 30-35 per quintal to Kolhu (crusher) owners. Public sector mills are not working and private mill owners say that they cannot buy sugarcane at so high rates. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has taken a bold step by announcing minimum support price of sugarcane at Rs. 95 a quintal. The Government have taken a well considered decision. Experts with the Government have decided the rate of Rs. 95 a quintal. But private mills say they will not pay so high rate thereby further complicating the matter. The Hon. Minister is quite serious by nature and the State Government has given an assurance. So, it should be fulfilled. The Central Government will have to ponder over as to how the assurance is to be fulfilled and how the mills are to be revived?

Madam, I would like to add one thing more. Is it not true that there is hardly any mill which may not be paying tax of Rs. 50 lakh to the Central Government and about Rs. 14-15 lakh to the State Government. Recently, the High Court has pronounced a decision that no State Government has a right to fix support price of sugar cane because it is the prerogative of the Central Government. In this regard I would like to submit that earlier 60 percent sugar used to be under free quota and 40 percent under levy...*(Interruptions)* I am not deviating from the subject. Price of sugar was increased after mediation of the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I am speaking on the subject only.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The list of hon. MPs who wish to participate is long and all will have to be accommodated. Had you been the only MP speaking from your party then all the time allotted to your party could have been given to you. So, please conclude now.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sugar prices were increased after mediation of the State Government. Earlier the Central Government used to fix the sugar price taking into consideration the quantum of levy sugar. Now levy sugar has been reduced to just 10 percent. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to make payment to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 95 a quintal after waiving all the taxes then only the lot of farmers will improve...*(Interruptions)* The State Government have fixes the price for good quality sugarcane at Rs. 100 and for law quality at Rs. 95 a quintal. The Central Government should fulfil the commitment made by the State Government.

If this issue is not resolved, it will not be a good thing for the party in power. I am happy the Government of Uttar Pradesh has suspended or removed the guilty officers and further it has stated the injustice to the farmers will not be tolerated. If this issue is not resolved by clearing levy standing arrears of the farmers and sugar mills are not started loan, the farmers are likely to resort to direct action. If they can make the Government, they can topple it also. Therefore, the Central Government should ensure that sugarcane is purchased at Rs. 95 a quintal, the price fixed by the Government, arrears of the farmers are paid and closed mills are revived. The Hon. Minister should make an announcement to this effect in the House itself. The Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister should pay attention to these problems and seize this opportunity to make an announcement regarding support price of sugarcane.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak on the problems of the sugarcane growers under rule 193. From the beginning of this session of the colleagues from all the political parties had drawn the attention of the Government towards the problems of the sugarcane growers. First of all the Government should clarify as to whether it intend to survive the sugar industry or propose to wind it up. Unless the Government make its policy, vision and the intent clear, such problems would continue to come up.

Sugarcane is a such item which the farmer cannot continue to hold for a long time. It can not be sold after an year like rice or wheat of sugarcane is not sold within a month or a half it has to be thrown out or burnt off. All the political parties had raised this point a month ago that the Government, in all condition should announce procurement price of sugarcane in the first week of November. The problems of the sugar mills should be solved so that the crushing of the sugarcane could be started timely and the farmers may sell their sugarcane to the mills.

The farmers of Eastern and Western Uttar Pradesh where sugarcane is produced abundantly, can not survive without sugarcane as it is there main crop. When the Government of Uttar Pradesh was requested to determine procurement price of sugarcane firstly, they made delay in this regard and at the same time sugar mill owners were asked to approach the High Court to take stay and also made it clear that the Government won't enhance procurement price of the sugarcane. Mr. Chairman, Sir, whichever Government would try to overlook the sugarcane growers can not continue to rule in Uttar Pradesh. This truth was well known to the Uttar Pradesh Government. The Government deceived by fixing the procurement price at the 95 per quintal at one hand and by sending the mill owners to the Court on the other.

Madam, everybody including the Government is aware that the sugarcane yield can survive for two months only and if the case in the Court drags on even two months, mill owners would fix the rate at their own will and the Government would shirk its responsibility by showing its inability to intervene in this matter on the pretext of the stay by the High Court. The same situation is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh at present. One week ago hon. Prime Minister had assured that a meeting comprising of the leaders of all the political parties, representatives of the

UP Government, leaders of the sugarcane growers and representatives of the sugar mill owner would be convened to decide that the sugar mill owners should procure the sugarcane from the farmers at the price fixed by the Government.

Madam, the crushing of sugarcane in sugar mills has been started but neither any meeting has been convened nor the farmers have been told as to on what price they would sell their sugarcane to mills. Nothing has been stated about the rate at which the farmers are selling their sugarcane to the mills. After weighing the sugarcane a slip is given to the farmers in Eastern and Western Uttar Pradesh which mentions about the weight alongwith the date of receiving sugarcane but there is no mention of the price. The farmer does not know whether he would get Rs. 95 per quintal or 75 or 65 per quintal. The support price or procurement price would be decided by the Court. If every job is to be performed by the Court then what work the Government would perform. Then there is no need of the Government. The job of the Government would be done by the Court.

Madam, Court can not fix the support price or the procurement price of sugarcane and the Government have accepted it but till date Government have neither convened the meeting to fix the price of sugarcane nor made any other effort in this matter. Consequently, the farmers are selling their sugarcane without considering about rate and what else they can do, it is their compulsion. If the farmers don't sell their sugarcane to mills then they would have to burn it. Farmer do not know as to what price he would get for his sugarcane.

Madam, I would like to submit that the Government had given the assurance while the session was on and now it would be over tomorrow and the Government would be relieved of the apprehension of the MP's gherao and agitation. The Government failed to convene a meeting during session, what can be expected from it after the session is over. Through you, I demand that the Government should take this matter seriously and immediately resolve this problem by convening meeting within two or three days and as I had urged upon in the beginning of my speech that the Government should also make its policy clear in this regard.

Madam, last year Government had sold the sugar at Rs. 900 per quintal to the exporters with the instruction that, the entire sugar would be exported but that sugar was sold in the domestic market at the rate of Rs. 1100, 1150, 1200 and s. 1250 per quintal by exporters defying

all rules and regulations. Sugar crisis had started since then only i.e., from the last year. It is really shameful that no action has been taken against those who had flouted all conditions which were put regarding this sugar and instead of exporting sugar they sold it in the domestic market. The result is that on one hand the mill owners have been complaining that they should bear losses if they procure at that rate and on the other hand farmers are also complaining like that the Government are saying that solution of this problem be found out by convening a meeting in this regard but the talks have yet to take place.

Madam, sugarcane is being procured at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal by sugar mills in Haryana. Haryana is also a part of India. The mill owners are procuring sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 110 per quintal, and they are not suffering any loss while in Uttar Pradesh the sugar mill owners are saying that they would bear losses if they purchase the sugarcane at Rs. 95 per quintal.

17.00 hrs.

I do not know as to what the crux of the problem is. There is no difference in the rate of sale tax and Government law in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The sugar mill owners in Haryana are easily procuring the sugarcane at Rs. 110 per quintal and their counter parts in Uttar Pradesh are expressing their inability to purchase sugar even at Rs. 95 per quintal. There is certainly a conspiracy behind it. It is unprecedented. Though the sugar mill owners would say like that but I throw a challenge that if the accounts of the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh is checked, you will find that every private sugar mill in Uttar Pradesh has earned the profits to the tune of crores of rupees each year. What has suddenly gone wrong this year that the mill owners are not in a position to purchase sugarcane at the fixed rate.

Only six months have passed since the Legislative Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh and the sugar mill owners had provided a lot of funds to the political parties then...*(Interruptions)* You give me two more minutes. Consequently, Government have completely surrendered before the sugar mill owners. Now the Government want to oblige them. Government do not want that sugar mills should procure the sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 95 per quintal due to which sugar mill owners are threatening not to pay this rate. Now the Government be it Union Government or the Uttar Pradesh Government are in a helpless position in this matter.

I would like to say one more thing that the whenever such crisis emerged before the sugar mill owners or the sugarcane farmers in Congress regime Government used to intervene and find solution within a week which was for both the farmers and the sugar mill owners but now why no step has been taken to resolve this crisis even after so many months have elapsed? Consequently, farmer's movement is being launched everywhere be it, Basti or Mundarwa. I am of that opinion. It does not have any major contribution from any political party. Farmers are angry and agitated. Instead of resolving their problems they are being fired at and lathi charged. Had this problem been resolved in the beginning then the Basti or Mundarwa incident would have not take place. If the farmers do not sell their sugarcane to the mill owners who are giving slip without showing rate and also not to the crusher owners who are paying, then only Rs. 50, Rs. 45, Rs. 40 per quintal then how would they empty their fields for sowing next crop of wheat.

Today the sowing of wheat has been getting delayed by a month in Uttar Pradesh due to sugarcane. I can show the expert's report which mentions that the crop yield declines by 30 or 35 percent in the year of delayed sowing. The sugarcane is likely to create wheat crisis in the next crop. If the yield of wheat crop declines by 30 percent due to this one month delayed sowing, wheat crisis would certainly start in Uttar Pradesh.

Lastly, I would like to mention two or three more points. Hon. Sharad Yadav had announced that a package of Rs. 500 crore is being given to Uttar Pradesh to resolve the problems of sugar mill owners and the sugarcane growers. Rs. 250 crore out of it...*(Interruptions)* is being given for drought relief. Approximately five thousand crore rupees of the farmers are outstanding against the mill owners.

If the Government gives five hundred crore rupees out of those five thousand crore rupees then how many farmers would be benefited? Through you, I demand that outstanding dues of the farmers against the sugarmills be paid by drawing a time bound scheme in this regard. There is a practice to pay interest in all cases but it is not being followed in the matter of farmers...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: There is a law for it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The outstanding dues of the farmers should be paid with interest. Unless it is done, the self confidence of the farmers would not be restored and also the farmers of Uttar Pradesh at

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

least won't believe that the Government of India are interested in the survival of the sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh. It is not a normal thing. The day the farmers turn away from agriculture on that day such grave situation would arise in the country that can't even be imagined. Disinvestment, privatization of industries are being undertaken so speedily that the number of unemployed youths keep increasing. Agriculture is source of their earning. However if the agriculture industry is wound up and there would be no option for them. In such a situation you can imagine, where would the unemployed youth find shelter.

Hence, through you I would like to submit that the Government should not repeat such grave mistake that it has committed earlier. Government should conduct a probe into the incidents of Basti and Hunda in which farmers were killed and injured in police firing. A time bound package with interest payment of the sugar cane growers should be ensured be it may take one year but time period should be fixed for it...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are three more speakers from your party. You have taken fifteen minutes.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: This is the main problem of Uttar Pradesh. You should give full time to speakers of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Madam Chairman, you extend his time, it is a matter of the farmers and of the country.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Madam, Chairman, extending it by some time won't help...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Chairman, I respect your opinion and it is my privilege that I have got opportunity to speak when madam is in the Chair.

I submit that the Government have not awakened even after so much hue and cry on this issue and now I hope that after the discussion being held today under the rule 193, the Government would resolve the problem of the sugarcane growers and would formulate a permanent policy so that the sugar and sugarcane crisis may not emerge in future and the sugarcane growers could continue producing sugarcane with enthusiasm which may bring prosperity to the State and the country in future.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Madam, Chairman, entire country is experiencing the problem of sugarcane growers though such problem has also emerged earlier but with my past experience in this field I can say that I have never witnessed so critical situation during the last 30-35 years. It would be wrong to say that this situation has come up in a year. This process has been going on for the last two-three years.

At the time of our independence we used to produce 10 lakh tonnes of sugar and today our country produces approximately 180 lakh tonnes of sugar and after catering to the requirement of the country more than 90 lakh tonnes of sugar remains in the stock each year. It means we have a surplus production of sugar. In such a situation there was a need to take some stringent measures but no attention was paid towards this. Its price is being paid by the sugarcane growers of the country. Sugar mills at several places are being closed down due to which the labourers are being rendered jobless there. The excise duty is a main source of revenue for the Government of India and the State Government but it has adverse impact of the existing crisis. Such a critical situation demanded stringent steps to find out long term solution. I remember that when a new sugar policy was formulated in the country around 1960, Babu Jagjivan Ram was the Minister of Food at that time. During the period double release mechanism for selling a certain quantity of sugar in open market alongside the one to be distributed under the public distribution system was evolved. That system was in vogue for the last 40 years and was proving very beneficial to the farmers and the sugarmill owners alike. Today the situation has changed. It is true that the Government have amended the policy of processing sugar for public distribution system at the minimum price. Today very few States procure sugar because there is negligible difference in the rate of sugar in public distribution system and open market. Today this problem is assuming serious dimensions.

We have to see as to how can overcome it and provide relief to the farmers. It appears to me that in sugarcane sector, if sugar mill owners will not take care of the interests of sugarcane growers, then the country will face a big crisis and the country is already faced with that crisis. Today, we have a large buffer stock. This stock has been piled up for last 2 years. When we keep one quintal of sugar stored in godown, then the burden of interest of Rs. 200 per quintal is borne every year and that Rs. 200 per quintal is ultimately passed on to the farmers. As such its cost goes down and hence

we have to see as to how we can rectify the situation of stock.

I am glad that Shri Sharad Yadav has made announcement in the House to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar and probably today the order might have been issued. Till today, the buffer stock on such a large scale has never been created. However, it appears that the decision of creating a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes is a big one, but in view of magnanimity of the problem, it cannot provide a solution. We have to think as to what is happening all over the world. When India has got surplus stock, sugar remain in stock even after meeting the needs of the people of the country, then we have to get ready to access international market. For this the State Governments and Government of India have to make available the facilities required to have a access to the international market.

Sugar mill owners too have to play their part in this regard and the farmers should think their productivity, then only this will yield the desired result. This year, its beginning was very bad. There is a sugar mill in Uttar Pradesh owned by a capitalist, though I do not know his name, but the name of the sugar mill is 'Shakambhari'. Till date, the Government of India used to decide the release mechanism. The Government of India or Ministry headed by Shri Sharad Yadav used to decide as to how much quantity of sugar is to be purchased from sugar mill and to be sold in the market, every week or every month. The Ministry headed by Shri Sharad Yadav used to decide the quantity of sugar to be distributed under PDS. However, the owners of 'Shakambhari' Sugar Mill filed a writ application in the Allahabad High Court that the Government of India should not have right to decide the quantity of sugar to be sold in open market. He said it before the court and court gave a ruling that they can sell, whatever quantity of sugar they want, wherever they want. As a result of it, all sugar mill owners of Uttar Pradesh and northern India have got the court order and a big pool of sugar in the country has been created. Due to it, price of sugar has fallen. The capitalists who are the owners of sugar mills are the creator of this problem. They have created this problem and all of us have to pay its price. Today, we have to devise a way out. What can be that? So long we keep such a big stock of sugar, the price of sugar will not rise. So long the price do not rise, we won't be in a position to pay money to the farmers. If farmers is not paid adequately, he will resent and will opt for other crops. In next two years, the consumers will face serious consequences of sugar prices.

The Government of India should give at least Rs. 200 per quintal as subsidy to enable them to enter the international market. The State of Maharashtra has provided relief to the farmers by providing subsidy of Rs. 100 per quintal. Maharashtra Government have waived off purchase tax for one year. But this relief is not adequate. If relief is to be provided, the Government of India should take stringent measures in this regard. First step which need to be taken is that as India has surplus stock of sugar, ocean freight or export subsidy of Rs. 200-250 per quintal should be given to export sugar to the countries which are facing scarcity of sugar. When the sugar will be exported to international market, then only condition of domestic market will improve. Therefore, the Government of India should take an initiative in this regard.

The second step which need to be taken is that at present Rs. 80 or 85 per quintal is levied as excise. Mechanism need to be evolved to pass on the amount to the farmers. Arrangement should be made to give this money to the farmers after recovery. It appears to me that it will solve the present problems of the farmers to an extent. During the last many years, the Government have got increased income from the sugar manufactured as a result of the hard work of the farmers. Today, when farmers are in crisis, the Government of India should be prepared to return this income to the farmers. At this juncture, they should be helped. In the process of preparation of sugar, a great amount of Bagasse and Molassis is left. The Government of India also charges tax of Rs. 500 per tonne on that waste. The Government of India should also take initiative to give it back to the farmers for next two years. It will also provide some relief to the farmers. Today, the Government of India provides relaxation up to 4 per cent in duty exemption pass book, which is very less, it need to be further increased to 8 per cent. This policy need to be followed for next two years.

I would like to say that on one side, initiative from the Government is required and on the other hand, some measures are also needed from the Banking Ministry, Reserve Bank and NABARD. Today, the problem is that NABARD has sent circular to all the banks directing not to increase the exposure limit of the relief provided for the sugarcane. They should not provide further relief to the farmers. The result of it is that in spite of availability of funds, the banks are not ready to help the sugarcane growers, who manufacture sugar from sugarcane. Therefore, there is a need to increase exposure limit.



[Shri Sharad Pawar]

The country has to think as to how much sugar is to be produced.

Today, in countries like Brazil, in sugar mills, sugar is manufactured from 70 per cent of sugarcane juice and from rest of 30% ethanol petrol is manufactured and pollution could be reduced by mixing it with petrol, some steps are needed in regard to Ethanol. I am glad that recently the Government has decided to mix 5 per cent of ethanol, but mere 5 per cent will not do. The decision to mix at least 10 per cent of ethanol is required and NABARD and Reserve Bank should issue directives to all banks to extend help to ethanol plants. The banks are ready to help to set up ethanol plant. Banks are ready to provide economic aid and they should be ready for it. Besides the Reserve Bank took couples of decisions during last two-three days which would provide some help but I want to give a suggestion to the banks that sugarcane and sugar do not come under priority sector. All other crops come under the priority sector, but sugarcane does not come under it. Reserve bank is not ready to treat sugarcane as food. Sugarcane is grown in field, it is a crop and after going through a process, sugar is manufactured and therefore, the policy about other crops should also be applied to sugarcane also, sugarcane should also be included in the priority sector. Along with it, the bank's policy about food process sector should also be implemented in case of sugar also and attention is needed in this regard.

When I talk about exporting sugar, I talk about barter trade policy of Government of India. Today, when we do business with Malaysia, we export some goods to them and in exchange we import oil from them. We export certain goods to Russia and in return they give us defence items. We export many things under barter trade, surplus sugar is also required to be brought under barter trade and I hope that some decision would be taken in this regard. I have given two four suggestions. It appears to me that from the day country started importing sugar, the situation deteriorated.

Three years ago, Prime Minister visited Lahore and then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharief who is the owner of sugar mill, suggested that Pakistan had surplus stock of sugar which should be permitted to be exported to India. Atalji opened the gate of our country for Pakistan and Pakistan started exporting sugar to India. Atalji went to Malaysia, the Prime Minister of Malaysia said they have surplus stock of edible oil, please get edible oil imported in your country, and Atalji opened the import gates for edible oil also and as a result of it

farmers of Saurashtra have suffered heavy losses and whenever Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee go abroad, he may agree to other things, but he should not agree to the terms which may cause harm to the farmers of India. Agreeing to these kind of terms is not in interest of the country.

In the end, I would like to say that under present circumstances, in case of sugar, a long term policy should be evolved at the earliest and the Government of India should take a decision at the earliest by calling the concerned people.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN (Basti): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion in the House on the problems of sugarcane growers.

Madam, recently a very unfortunate incident took place in my parliamentary constituency in view of the problem of farmers. Sugarcane growers were sitting on 'dharna' for their demands. They were holding 'dharna' very peacefully. There was no problem anywhere. Dharna started on 2nd of the month, and on 4th traffic jam took place on highway due to 'dharna'. The 'District Officer' was able to clear that jam. On 6th 'Chakka Jam' occurred on place named 'Kante' and SP was successful in clearing that also. Then on 10th 'Chakka Jam of rail' took place on Tinich, prior information about it was not given and District Administration arrested 17 farmers. After returning from that place, 50 more farmers were also arrested, who were holding 'dharna' in a peaceful manner. The farmers are agitated due to this incident. The Administration acted in a usual manner and treated the matter as closed, but this information of the incident spread immediately among the farmers over there. Next day, on 11th the farmers gathered on very large scale. Workers of farmers union contacted the people overnight and on 10 a.m., a large crowd gathered. The morale of officials who were successful in clearing 'Dharna', demonstration and 'Chakka Jam', was high. On that day they imposed section 144 and told them to return their flags. On that day lathicharge was ordered and firing took place, stones were pelted and this unfortunate incident took place. Three innocent farmers of my area became the victim of firing. I visited the houses of those farmers on 13th. The deceased are Shri Badri Choudhary from Manjharoa, Shri Dharamraj Choudhary from Mehta Purwa and Shri Tilakram Chaudhari from Changera-Magera. Shri Badri Choudhary is survived by small

children and old mother. Their condition is pathetic and are compelled to lead the life. These poor farmers were holding demonstration in peaceful manner for their demands. If Administration would have acted patiently, such an accident would not have taken place. This incident should be condemned and I express my condolences over this incident and submit that politics should not be played on dead bodies of the deceased.

The farmer over there want to lead a peaceful life. The Administrator has committed guilt, Uttar Pradesh Government has dismissed Commissioner, District Officer, S.P. and other people. The entire staff of the Police Station was called back. The Administrative action was taken with immediate effect. The atmosphere of peace is building over there, but some political people have started visiting the state devoid of any issue in search of an issue. They are trying to disturb peaceful atmosphere over there.

Madam, I request if they want to visit that place, please visit to provide help to the poor families. Please visit that place to help distressed and affected people, it would be unfortunate if people continue to visit over there to get political mileage. I would like to say it with heavy heart. I would like to urge upon the Government of India that Government of India is a sensitive Government. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh should definitely get remunerative price of sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 95-100 per quintal. When Bhartiya Janata Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh, from 1996 onwards it increased Rs. 5 every year and increased the price of sugarcane to Rs. 97/-. The Government of India decides the price and the State Government decides price after consulting farmers and mill owners. This year, they declared the price as Rs. 95. It is definitely a very serious issue and if any fault lies in it, it is very unfortunate. The Government supports State Governments at some points. Mill owners are compelled to give prices as decided by the State and he gives it, but unfortunately this time it has not been possible.

Madam, I demand from the Government of India to provide economic compensation of at least Rs. 5 lakh to the families of deceased and injured should also be provided compensation, their treatment should be undertaken free of cost. The cases have been registered over there, some have been released, the rest of the farmers should also be released. The case of murder should be registered and lawful action to establish peace over there should be taken. Through you, I would like to request the sugarcane growers of Basti district not to let their sugarcane crop dry up because it will result into a

very unfortunate incident if sugarcane will get dried, it will give no juice and it will lose weight and the farmer would get deprived of Rabi crop. The farmers should cooperate in running the mills and should cooperate in building peaceful atmosphere by agreeing to the genuine demands of agitators and nobody should come in between to spoil that cordial atmosphere. While making this submission and thanking you. I conclude.

17.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (*Sambhal*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really a matter of grief and sorrow that we are taking part in this unfortunate debate. There was no need to debate over this matter had the State Government not unleashed cycle of retrogressive measures lending to murder. Later on a conspiracy was hatched to conceal these murders so as to protect the police-I am deliberately terming it a conspiracy. In such circumstances Samajwadi Party cannot remain a mute spectator.

A good debate was going on here. I am glad to say that hon'ble Sharad Pawarji and Ram Nagina Mishraji who have an experience of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively, initiated a very good debate but in the end a political colour has been given to it and a particular political party has been blamed for it. I am raising all these points because it was not at all expected that Hon. Shri Sharad Yadavji would give such a wrong statement. That day also I said that he has committed a sin. We are saying that three farmers have been murdered and their dead bodies are in custody of police. Shri Ramkiranji Arya, MLA and Dayanand Choudharyji, President of the district Council some how succeeded in getting dead body of one of the farmer and brought it to the hospital, two dead bodies are still not given. They were murdered on 11th of this month and on 12th public itself snatched those dead bodies from police custody and get the postmortem done in the hospital. It means that committing murder, taking repressive measures, hiding the dead bodies and then giving protection to guilty police officials. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the debate would have been good and meaningful if this wrong statement would not have been made. Good suggestions have been given. I was glad that hon'ble Prime Minister intervened in this debate but it does not result any good. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is happening? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are compelled to raise this issue here because some questions were raised in the statement made here and in reply to it we also want to

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raise some questions. We also want to express our views in this regard.

Today not only sugarcane growers but all the farmers are facing problems. Potato growers are also going to face problems after 15 days. Wheat growers are already facing this problem. Wheat is being imported at a rate of Rs. 800 per quintal whereas farmers of the country are not even being given Rs. 610 per quintal. Our country is facing this serious situation continuously for the last three years. At present, sugarcane growers, potato growers, paddy growers and even what growers, all are in miserable condition. Our Government are contemplating to enter into similar agreements with foreign countries in regard to fruit, milk and maize. We all know that there is huge buffer stock of foodgrains imported from foreign countries. Now it is being proposed to import maize and all type of grains, pulses, vegetables and fruit etc. This agreement is proposed to be signed we will discuss that also. Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. Farmers are continuously raising demand since August for payment of their outstanding amount, to restart the closed sugarmills and payment of remunerative price for their sugarcane. Condition of farmers in other districts is also more or less the same. In Uttar Pradesh police had opened firing on farmers and students. A farmer was shot dead in Ramkola. Hon'ble Ram Nagina Mishra has an issue. He said that he had gone to Ramkola but nothing happened then how I suffered. I told him that I was arrested at 2 a.m. and I had gone there to attend a condolence meeting. I was arrested at Deoria at 2 a.m. and sent to Varanasi jail. A question has been raised regarding sugarcane policy of the country, we also want to raise that. I thank Shri Ram Nagina Mishra and associate with his views. I need not to speak much on this issue.

Sir, the farmers of Basti had been submitting their three demands through memoranda to the District Magistrate, continuously since August last but their plea fell on deaf ears, no action was taken to solve their problems. On 2nd December farmers staged a peaceful demonstration at Munderva sugarmill. Since this mill is lying closed, the farmers raised demand for restarting the mill and for making payment of the outstanding amount. They were staging the demonstration very peacefully. He is saying that politicians had insisted for arrest of farmers. Whether those politicians belong to Samajwadi party and if so, whether Samajwadi Party is in power in Uttar Pradesh. Whether Samajwadi Party had asked to put 50 farmers behind the bars and then given the orders to throw them away. Whosoever went to meet them in prison

he was not allowed. The officers in the entire area were receiving wireless message to reprimand farmer. Was that order given by farmers of Samajwadi Party?

Sir, on 2nd December farmers staged a peaceful demonstration and on 6th December after holding discussion with farmers for the whole night they reached to an agreement. D.M. promised to adhere to that but later on the peaceful dharna was banned. On 7th December, the Commissioner and District Magistrate held a meeting with factory workers of Basti and decided that payment of outstanding amount of Rs. 4 crores would definitely be paid to the farmers by 8th December. But when payment was neither made on 8th nor on 9th December, then farmers again staged a dharna on 10th December where 50 farmers were arrested and sent to jail. It provoked farmers. On 11th December when this news broke up in the entire area, farmers were beaten by PAC. Instead of arresting them police opened firing on them which resulted in death of three farmers namely— Badri Choudhry, Dharmraj Choudhary and Tilak Raj and hundreds of farmers injured in this incident.

Sir, I have a list of names of injured with me. I read out names of injured—Ram Singh S/o Ram Karan Yadav, Shri Mehta S/o Balraj, Nainsu Yadav, Ramshankar, Balai, Ram Bhuvan Choudhary, Antu S/o Jai, Subhash Chand Dharu Ram, Hari Ram, Ram Pyare, Ajit Ahmed, Shri Ram, Kanaihya Lal, Lakshmi Yadav, Sanjay Kumar, Gunam Yadav S/o Lakshmi Yadav, Somnath Choudhary, Ramnath Choudhary, Dhanai Choudhary, Ram Singh Choudhary, Ram Ujagar Choudhary, Santap Prajapati, and several others. I do not want to take much time of the House in reading out the names. It has been correctly stated in the statement made by hon'ble Minister that shops of traders were looted and again on 11th December three farmers were shot dead in the same area. On 12th December MLA, Shri Ram Karanji, and Shri Rajaram were not allowed by police to go near the dead body of farmer Badri Choudhary who was shot dead by police. But he insisted and took the dead body from custody of police and got the postmortum done. Is it wrong. A Parliamentary Committee can be constituted, or hon'ble Prime Minister can get the matter inquired and if they reach to a conclusion that what I have said is wrong, I am ready to withdraw my words.

Sir, our workers were not playing politics rather we were supporting the farmers. We have supported farmers and will always support them in their difficult time. This whole incident took place within a radius of 2 km from Munderva station. I do not want to waste the time of the

House as several hon'ble Members want to speak on this issue.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that farmers came on their cycles and motor-cycles and police burnt their vehicles. I would like to tell the number of one of the motor cycle burnt by police. Its number is 75711. You can imagine that why farmers would have brought cycles and motor cycles if they had come there to protest. It is very much true that police have burnt cycles and motor cycles of farmers and I have given number of one of the motor cycle burnt.

I have told about motor cycle only. In this manner on 12th PAC and the police entered the village and resorted to lathicharge and firing. On 12th, when hon'ble Minister was making statement here and hon'ble Prime Minister was intervening the debate in sympathy with sugarcane growers at the same time lathicharge was going on in the village. On 13th again villagers were forced to come out and beaten with lathis. Whether this all happened on our orders or Kunwar Akhilesji's orders. Not only workers of Samajwadi party but workers of several other parties have also stated that atrocities are being committed and injustice is done to farmers. Were these orders issued by Samajwadi party? Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, the situation would have not been so serious if it was left on district administration. I will tell you in last about what were the reasons behind it.

All these instructions were issued by DM, DIG, SP. Now commissioner has been transferred on the orders of the Chief Minister. They had to obey the instructions as these orders were issued by Chief Minister office, otherwise such a serious incident would not have occurred there. This incident could have been avoided. Such incident have taken place continuously. In Pune also firing has been opened on farmers and in this incident also three four farmers have died and several injured. Farmers were shot dead in Padrauna also...*(Interruptions)* She was a girl. She did not get fee from her house. Students staged a peaceful demonstration and there also one youth was shot dead by police. Now farmers of Munderava and Basti have also been shot dead. Why the farmers are being shot dead in the country?

It is really unfortunate for the country that the farmers who comprise 70-72 percent of the population and the agriculture labourers who constitute 4 percent of the population are subjected to police firing. I would like to say to hon'ble Prime Minister that in such situation our country cannot make progress in spite of signing various

agreements with foreign countries. The country can progress only when farmers are prosperous and happy. Gandhiji had said that day will be the happiest day in our life when we will see the farmers are prosperous and there is greenery in fields. I have given here figures regarding the outstanding amount of farmers and do not want to repeat that. I would like to tell that an amount of Rs. 1000 crores of farmers is outstanding. The Government officials visit to check the greenery of parks created by hard earned money of farmers whereas greenery of fields should be taken care of by the Government. Farmers are subjected to firing and lathicharge whereas parks are created by their hard-earned money only and hon'ble Prime Minister went there to see the beauty and greenery of park. Has he ever visited to see the dry fields of farmers? I would like to repeat that the park is for those persons who believe in luxurious life.

It is a question of policy, leader and intention. You can formulate a very good policy but without good intentions of the Government it cannot be successful nor it can protect interests of the country. The country can make progress only if the intentions of the Government are good no matters its policy is wrong. But country would get ruined if intentions of the Government are not good. This is the question before us. Hence we want to express our views that atrocities are being committed on farmers.

Hon'ble Prime Minister you can conduct inquiry in case of atrocities committed on farmers and then you would realize that it is true but to what extent the remedial measures will be implemented? I do not understand as to what are your compulsions in this regard. Sometimes, we feel that hon'ble Prime Minister is thinking in right direction when such statements are issued to improve the image. We do admit that despite so many failures on the part of Government he has been successful in improving his image. I feel that such incidents never occurred earlier, the country never suffered such a set back, situation never deteriorated to such an extent that farmers were compelled to commit suicide. Country had faced severe drought even during British rule but farmers did not commit suicide, although they died of starvation at that time. But the number of suicides committed by farmers during the last three four years has been unprecedented in the history of India. 74-75 farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra alone.

I can read out the names of 74 persons if Mr. Speaker wants that. Not only in Maharashtra but farmers

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa also committed suicide and now farmers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have also been forced to commit suicide. Country had suffered severe drought during British rule, people died of starvation but farmers never committed suicide and I would like to know from the Government that why farmers have been forced to commit suicide in independent India. On 15th December farmers were driven out and killed. There is a detailed story that how farmers saved their lives from PAC and police. Farmers who were beaten and injured in police firing remained in hidings due to fear of PAC and police and some of them who got help somehow went to other hospitals for treatment. It was not reported. Brijlal Singh, Subhas Vishwakarma, Peer Mohammad, Umesh Singh, Balmini Verma, Ram Shankar remain in hiding upto 15th December, I am not stating the name of village and police station so as to save the time of the House. Indrajit Jakim, Joginder Jakim remained in hiding upto 16th December and terror of PAC and police continued in villages. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would you have not intervened, it was difficult for us to organize a meeting there. PAC and police had dismantled the stage at 4 P.M. where a condolence meeting was to be held. I was supposed to give speech in that condolence meeting. Had we not attended that condolence meeting, Ram Nagina Mishraji might have asked me whether I was present at that occasion, or not. I would like to tell him that the meeting was banned and it could be held only due to the intervention of the hon'ble Speaker. It may be so that this matter would have been brought to the notice of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and hon'ble Prime Minister because only between 12.00 hrs. to 2.00 a.m. we got the permission to hold the meeting and use loud Speaker. Have we provoked farmers by holding that meeting or violence broke out there due to politicians. Peace prevailed in that area only after we had hold the condolence meeting. The Uttar Pradesh Government want to suppress the truth. I have said that farmers are committing suicide only due to Government's policies and not due to terror of police or PAC. Committing suicide by farmers and incidents of firing are the result of Government policies only.

Jaiswalji has raised the issue of policy and it is a correct decision that hon'ble Prime Minister convened a meeting of leaders of all political parties on the issue of WTO. I personally met hon'ble Prime Minister and requested him to save the farmers from World Trade Organization otherwise the country will be ruined and we might have to face not only the economic slavery but also the political slavery. Mexico had made a world record

in wheat production 30 years ago but fell prey to this policy. Due to liberalization policy, Mexico has been continuously importing wheat from USA for the last 30 years.

Won't they learn a lesson from this? The Hon'ble Minister can go through the 400-450 years old history of America and other developed countries of the world. Sometimes my colleagues as well as the hon'ble Prime Minister say that we should not compare our country with China. Why should not we do so? What was China in 1949 and what was India in 1947? We were much ahead of China. But today, their production has increased around two and half times as against the increase in population by 1.25 times. China's present status is the result of the hard work done by the farmers there. This Government is acting under the pressure of the USA. The Government says that it will not buckle under the pressure of any country, then under whose pressure the Government have taken this decision of liberalisation policy which has ruined the farmers. Today, America is dominating the world on the basis of its bumper wheat production. All the rich and powerful countries in the world today, are those which paid attention towards the requirements of the farmers, gave priority to the development of agriculture, extended benefits to farmers and paid remunerative price to them for their produce. Here, in India, the farmers are subjected to police firing when they demand a right price of their produce. The hon'ble Food Minister quoted the figures of outstanding amounts in respect of all other States. However, I have got a list of outstanding amounts in regard to Uttar Pradesh. It's a serious problem. Sir, through you, I can give this list to hon'ble Prime Minister so that he could go through it. He is very sensitive person. I am sure he will definitely go through that list and take some action.

I am quoting the figures of dues against the private sugar mill owners upto the year 2002, which comes to Rs. 126 crore. Similarly Rs. 138 crore are outstanding against the mills of co-operative federation and Rs. 95 crore against the sugar mills of the Corporation. Thus, a total of Rs. 359 crore have been outstanding against them for the last two years. Industrialists get interest on their deposits in the banks but the farmers are denied their due. Moreover the interest on the loans taken by them is never waived off. Many farmers are neither in a position to get their daughters married, not in a position to buy shoes or cloth in bitter cold, nor medicine for getting their family members treated nor fees for their wards. Poverty and illiteracy prevail among them. Even after this, we are not helping them get their money and the government is rather seeking the help of Supreme

Court. The Government did a good job by helping the farmers of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, but I fail to understand why the Government is not helping the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. This should be made clear today itself. It is with this view that we are forwarding these figures to you. These figures extracted from Government records reflect the amount outstanding against the mill owners as well as the period since when it has been outstanding.

As far as the question of policy is concerned, we want to convey to the hon. Prime Minister that the liberalisation policy has ruined the farmers and when he was in the opposition and we were in the ruling side, he himself used to oppose such a policy...(*Interruptions*) I will conclude soon. I am happy that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here and he has participated in the discussion. Even today, he is listening our views with all seriousness, hence I may be allowed to speak 2-4 minutes more. I will conclude my speech at the earliest. Though there are many points for raising, there could be nothing more important than the issue of farmers.

I would like to submit that farmers have thousands of crores of rupees outstanding against the private sugar mills. I am giving their names Maijapur, Majhawali, Dhampur, Etah, Agota, Roza, Kaptanganj, Shivhara, Ramkola and Basti having four sugar mills, against whom an amount of Rs. 13.5 crore is outstanding. Now, 11-12 sugar mills have been closed down and 11-12 mills are on the verge of closure, among which Lakhimpur Khari is stated to be closed very soon. Sarju co-operative Sugar Mill, Belraya Kheri Sugar Mill and Farmer Co-operative Sugar Mill Sampoonanand Nagar, Kheri, all these mills are on the verge of closure. The policy of liberalisation adopted by the Government has rendered 20 lakh farmers landless. It all has happened during the last four years. On the other hand, their contribution in the overall national income is about 40 percent. Our country is importing wheat from foreign country at the rate of Rs. 800 per quintal, while the Indian farmers though they are contributing a lot in the development of country, are not getting even Rs. 610 per quintal for the wheat grown by them.

18.00 hrs.

This way the property of the farmer is being looted. In Karnataka about 50,000 acres of land belonging to farmers has gone into the hands of foreign companies. Shri Deve Gowda, who is sitting here, knows everything. Likewise, in Punjab, farmers have lost 26,000 acres of land to foreign companies. As a result, production is

declining. On the other hand, many other reasons have also been cited. As Shri Sharad Pawar said just now, there will be more loss. Shri Jaiswalji was also saying that now farmers cannot sow seeds because the seasons of sowing of wheat is already over. Even if the sugarcane is crushed, wheat cannot be sown and it is one of the reasons for low production.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, you please wait for a minute. Let me seek the opinion of the House for extending the time further.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, you can extend the time, there is no problem.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House till the discussion under Rule 193 is over?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the time of the House is extended till the discussion under Rule 193 is over.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please conclude your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the condition of farmer is becoming bad to worse. I like to suggest some immediate measures the Government should take to improve their condition. Since you have asked me to conclude early, I will not go into the long term policy. I request Shri Sharad Yadav, that as an immediate measure, the Government should effect recoveries from the Private Sugar Mills. The Central Government has decided to give Rs. 75 per quintal and UP Government Rs. 95 per quintal. In case the mill owner fail to make the payment they should be sent to jails and Government receivers should be appointed in the mills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been speaking for the last half-an-hour. Now, please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am coming to the last point. Shri Jaiswal did not say clearly that there had been a deal. The people holding responsible positions

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

in the Government were part of this deal, which was struck at Rs. 8 per bag of sugar from sugar mill owners. I am saying all these things with full knowledge. Rs. 30 crore have already been taken by them as first instalment, as part of a deal amounting to Rs. 100 crore. I request the hon'ble Prime Minister to get a CBI inquiry done in this regard. If, in CBI investigation, my allegation is proved wrong, I will immediately resign from my Lok Sabha membership. All these acts have ruined the farmers. I openly declare in the House that deal has taken place and I will prove this. Rs. 30 crore have already been taken by them as first instalment, as part of a total deal amounting to Rs. 100 crore. That is why, farmers are being fired at by the police. All these instructions have been given by the Government. If my allegation is proved wrong, I am ready to tender my resignation. One hon'ble Member has said that all parties take money from sugar mill owners. But, Samajwadi Party never takes money, nor has it taken in the past, whether it was 1993 election or 1996 election. Our party never took money from sugar mill owners. It is the people on the other side who take money and everyone knows this thing. Money has been taken in this deal. That is why, I have asked for a CBI investigation. Farmers will be done to death and such incidents will go unreported. Moreover, the Chief Minister of the State is giving protection to the police.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak very briefly. I have not risen here to reply to the discussion. The reply would be given by my colleague Shri Sharad Yadav. I am taking your time to clarify one or two issues.

As the House is well aware that the Union Government fixes the Statutory minimum price of the sugarcane. It is the minimum price below which no sugar mill can procure sugarcane from the farmers. Sugar mills with mutual consent, can give more than the minimum price fixed to the farmers and it has also been the case. This year the Union government have fixed the statutory Minimum Price at Rs. 64.50 per quintal where the recovery level is 6.4%.

As the statutory Minimum Price is linked with recovery, for the farmers in the areas of those mills where recovery is better, it is fixed at higher rate. At present, the average statutory Minimum Price is approximately Rs. 74 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh.

We are aware of the problems being faced by the farmers and to provide them relief we have decided that the Union Government would increase the Minimum

Statutory Price of sugarcane by five rupees per quintal which would be applicable in all the States.

Besides, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have also taken some steps to provide relief to the Sugarcane farmers. The Government is providing a relaxation in purchase tax and the entry tax of sugar and providing grant of Rs. 4 per Quintal on the commission of Sugarcane societies. The States Government is providing this relaxation and grant to the sugar mills with the objective that they would include these four rupees in the payment made to the farmers. This way the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh would get an increase of nine rupees per quintal.

All of us are aware that the prosperity of the sugarcane farmers is linked to the development of the sugar industry, through which large number of needy persons in rural areas get employment. Hence it is imperative that we keep the sugar industry in good condition. As the sugar industry is facing a crisis, we need to take steps to overcome the present crisis as soon as possible. The prices of sugar have declined a lot in recent months and one of the reasons for it is that several sugar mills have, through judicial intervention received orders to release sugar besides the quota assigned to them by the Government of India. It has led to increase in supply of sugar and decline in prices. In these circumstances, the need is to continue with and effectively implement the current-'release' system. Accordingly, the decision has been taken to continue the 'release system' and to make meaningful efforts to restore stability in the market price of sugar.

As the hon'ble Minister of Food told us, the Central Government have decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar. It will yield Rs. 786 crore which will be used in the payment of the outstanding dues of sugarcane farmers.

In my opinion, the above mentioned action would provide substantial relief to the sugarcane farmers and the condition of sugar industry would improve.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Only yesterday the hon'ble Prime Minister had announced postponement of the recoveries due on account of kharif crops. But despite that 15 farmers have been sent to jail in Muzaffarnagar...*(Interruptions)* for defaulting in payment of arrears on account of kharif crops...*(Interruptions)* Even the orders of the hon'ble Prime Minister are not being complied with...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We will decide after thoroughly considering the issue, which you have raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The State Government of UP has already declared the rate as Rs. 95 per quintal and according to the figures, which the hon'ble Prime Minister has presented, they will get only Rs. 81 per quintal. So, what is the use of such an announcement? The UP Government has already declared Rs. 14 per quintal more...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. Just before Shri Mulayam Singhji spoke on this issue. I have just returned from Munderwa and yesterday, whole day, I visited the houses of Joseph, Badri Prasad, Dharmraj and Tilakram.

In this House, we are discussing the problems of farmers and there, in Munderwa, farmers have been fired at. Earlier, it was said in the House that the person, whose unclaimed dead body was found lying at a distance of 15 kms, did not fall prey to the bullet fired by the police. After hearing this in the House, we went there to know the facts. You would be surprised to know that it was police bullet which hit him. Had he been taken to the hospital then and there, he could have been saved. But he was dragged upto a distance of half a kilometer, though he was bleeding profusely. As a result he died there. I have brought the catridge which had hit Badri Prasad. By the numbering on the catridge, it can be ascertained whether it belong to the police or not. Had the Prime Minister been present in the House, I would have handed over the catridge to him as a sample. It bears a numbers.

In the speech of the hon'ble Prime Minister, there was nothing new. The price was fixed at Rs. 95/- during previous year and it has again been fixed at the same level for this year also. Here a mention has been made about Allahabad High Court...*(Interruptions)* The SAP i.e. State Advisory Price are not obligatory at all. These may or not be agreed. In Haryana, procurement is being made at a rate of Rs. 110, while in Uttar Pradesh, the rate is between Rs. 55-60. About buffer stock, it has been said in the House that 20 lakh tonnes of buffer stock will be created. The Hon'ble Minister also said that if they had the funds, they would provide it. The position is that Rs. 3012 crore is already lying with the Government as tax collections. This money should be used for the

development of mills. But since the hon'ble Prime Minister has said one new thing just now, I would like to know as to where that money has gone?

We as well as our farmers want to know as to where the amount of Rs. 3000 crore collected at the rate of Rs. 140 per quintal has gone? It is the Government which has to decide as to what amount of compensation should be given to the victim. It's a mockery that Rs. 1 lakh have been given as compensation, though he has six children. Now-a-days, what can one do with one lakh rupees. My demand is that atleast Rs. 10 lakh should be given as compensation and job should also be provided to one of his children. When the farmer is in debt and he is unable to repay his debts, cases are filed against him and for fighting those cases he has to part with his property also. But when the mill owners are in debt, the relevant laws applicable to them are not implemented. If he mill owners keep the amount of farmers and do not pay them their dues within 15 days, then the District Magistrate can arrest mill owners and deal with them as per the law. Further, they will have to pay the outstanding amount alongwith interest...*(Interruptions)* There was a case. The mill owners are talking about sugarcane only and not other things. Many things can be prepared from the husk (Khol), even thermocol and liquor is prepared from that. Shri Sharad Pawar has also said this thing. Its cost is not being included in it. If we add all those things, one will find that they neither incur loss nor earn profit. The mill owners were saying that they suffered losses. They also went to the court. The Government have to look into this. As regards the firing incident, it was said that it all happened within two kms distance and here it has been said that it happened 15 kms away. Why the fact was concealed, they should not conceal anything and reveal the truth. They must coincide the fact and then see how it is decided. We should think about this, but they are concealing the facts.

Sir, we have seen the farmers bleeding. The Hon'ble Minister is sitting here, he can see the blood stains. It's the blood of farmers...*(Interruptions)* The farmers do not belong to this region only but Maharashtra and other places also. Earlier also, farmers have committed suicide on various issues. Now the doors have been opened with the signing of the WTO. The farmers have stood up to face the challenge in a spirit of do or die. If they do not take a decision at the earliest, the farmers will themselves respond. The ruling side can defeat us here in the House by cutting our votes, but they cannot defeat us outside because the farmers are against them. When we compete outside, then everything will be clear. Mr.



[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am giving you this bullet\* which a child has given to us saying it was found near his father's body.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the problems of sugarcane farmers are being discussed in the House. The problems of all the farmers whether he is a sugarcane farmer, wheat farmer or cotton farmer are discussed here. I am also a farmer and I know that how many times discussions were held on farmers in this House during last three years. I would like to ask all of you to introspect that how many problems of farmers have been solved by us till date. I am asking to the entire House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sugarcane is not produced in my area.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I would like to ask that through these discussions how many problems of these farmers have resolved what mistake these farmers have committed that they are compelled to hold dharna, they are lathi charged and fired at.

80 percent of the people of our country are farmers who feed the entire country yet they are being fired at. I would like to know as to how their condition has become so bad? Even elapsing 55 years of independence the condition of farmers is deteriorating day by day. Whenever the issue of sugarcane farmer is arised, the farmers of Maharashtra and U.P. are particularly mentioned. But I would like to submit that today the sugarcane farmer of entire country is worried and their condition is serious. The reason behind this is that the Government be it Central Government and State Governments have not formulated good policies and guidelines for them till date. When our farmers grow sugarcane it costs Rs. 600 per quintal and at some places it costs Rs. 800 per quintal.

Sir, sugarcane costs Rs. 800 per tonne to a sugarcane grower in Maharashtra but unfortunately State Government is paying them just Rs. 550 per tonne on one hand in the entire country the rate of sugarcane is Rs. 110 and at some places it is Rs. 95 or Rs. 65 per quintal on the other the Government is paying just Rs. 550 per tonne in Maharashtra. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that when the production cost of sugarcane in Maharashtra is Rs. 850 per tonne then why the Government of Maharashtra is paying Rs. 550 per tonne and why the farmer there is compelled to sell his sugarcane at such a low price.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sugar mill owners are paying Rs. 110 per quintal to sugarcane farmers in Haryana and even a single rupee is not outstanding against any sugar mill. The rate of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 65 and at some places it is Rs. 95 per quintal whereas in our Maharashtra it is only Rs. 550 per tonne. Why is it so?

SHRIMATI REENA CHAUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bell is being rung.

[English]

Hon. Members, according to our rules, three times quorum bell can be rung and even after that if the quorum is not there, the Chair has no other alternative but to adjourn the House. Therefore, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 20th December, 2002 at 11.00 a.m.

18.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 20, 2002/Agrahayana 29, 1924 (Saka)*

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\*As there is no provision in the Rules/Directions by the Speaker, permitting laying of objects by the Members, the used bullet was not treated as laid on the Table of the House.