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Title: Plight of sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country.

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (AMETHI): Sir, kindly permit me to raise, during the Zero Hour, a matter relating to the sugarcane farmers of our country.

The cane growers work hard and contribute immensely to our economy. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that our farmers get the correct price for their produce. The Uttar Pradesh Government made a statement in the Supreme Court on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 stating that the private sugarcane mills had paid all the arrears to the cane farmers of Uttar Pradesh. However, the Uttar Pradesh Cane Commissioner has recently said in '*Aajtak*' that a sum of Rs. 517 crore which were the arrear for the year 2002-03 has not yet been paid. This is extremely unfair to our farmers.

I urge upon the Government of India to see that the State Government complies with the directions given by the Supreme Court in their final judgement dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 and our farmers are given their due.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you on your maiden speech.