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Title: Need to rehabilitate the farmers whose land was acquired for SEZ projects.

**SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ):** Food Security in our country has become a significant issue today. While 70 per cent of Indian population depends on farming, the alarming rate of population rise has warranted importing food to maintain Food Security after nearly 30 years. In spite of Government's sincere and all possible efforts, 26% of Indian population live Below Poverty Line and suicides by the farmers in recent years have added a new dimension to this situation. In this scenario, Selected Economic Zone (SEZ) projects at various places are a very delicate issue. Due to its immediate benefit the debt burdened farmers may be tempted to sell their agricultural lands but the lump sum money that they may receive is not likely to last long – making them more susceptible to live under BPL. The mass of land remaining static, the SEZ projects with potential economic growth, will reduce the size of agricultural land affecting food production making us more dependent on food import in the long run. On top of it, farmers being workers in unorganized sector they can hardly transform themselves into skilled workers and work in factories or other establishments raised on the acquired land and earn. It would, therefore, be purposeful if the farmers whose plots of lands are being acquired should be rehabilitated to ensure a livelihood for them otherwise there is possibility of unscrupulous activities around the cash compensation affecting the farmers more severely.