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Title: Need to address the problems faced by poppy growers of Rajasthan.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR): Sir, the opium cultivators of Jhalawar, Kota, Baran, Chittorgarh and other districts of Rajasthan are facing a severe hardship. This is due to lack of proper attention given by the concerned authorities. The following measures should be adopted :

The licensing area for the poppy growers is presently 20 ARES and if it is reduced there should be two farmers for 10 ARES each and the additional numbers of farmers can be given the opportunity to grow poppy.

At present 90 per cent of the payment is made to the farmers at the time of weighing on the spot and balance payment is made after testing of the opium. I demand the testing of the quality of the opium should be carried out at the collection centre itself.

In case of natural calamities the crop is uprooted and the farmers have to face great difficulties. A better communication between the narcotics division and farmers should be maintained for enabling the farmers to get their opium *pattas* for the next season. I request the concerned authorities to be considerate to the opium cultivators.

Thank you.