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Title: Problems being faced by Sugarcane growers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (SIVAKASI): Sir, Sugarcane production in Tamil Nadu has increased to 275 lakhs of metric tones this year. Sugarcane harvesting normally completed within 12 months has not been completed even after 16 months. So farmers have to face loss both due to the delay in harvest, weight loss and delayed procurement. Till last year sugar cane growers were able to get payment for their sugarcane within 15 days. Now even two or three months after the procurement, payments are not made to the farmers. From unregistered farmers sugar cane is procured at half the price by the private sugar mills. Considering the plight of sugarcane cultivators in Tamil Nadu, Centre must come forward to provide long term loans to the farmers through Sugarcane Development Fund. Loans must be extended through public sector banks also. There is also a need to increase the quantum of procurement of sugar for Public Distribution System. Centre must impress upon the state Government to procure all the sugarcane to help save the farmers from further losses. I urge upon the centre to address this problem at the earliest.