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Title: Regarding Sangur Sugar Factory in Karnataka.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, Sangur Sugar Factory is situated in Haveri District of Karnataka State on the banks of Varda River. This is run by a co-operative society. At present, it is finding it very difficult to run the factory. Many farmers have grown sugarcane in this year. There is no other sugar factory in the vicinity of more than 100 kilometres of this factory.

One Renuka Sugar Factory has entered into an agreement with Karnataka Government and taken Sangur Sugar Factory on lease for three years. In the first year, they had to pay Rs. 1 crore to Sangur Sugar Factory and in the second year, Rs. 3 crore. In the first year, they have paid a sum of Rs. 1 crore as agreed and also paid Rs. 1,200 per metric tonnes to sugarcane growers. They have to crush the sugarcane grown by sugarcane growers in that area. Renuka Sugar Factory is well known and has so many factories in Karnataka, running on ownership-basis as well as on lease-basis, but this Sangur Sugar Factory is already suffering and is a sick unit. For that also, they have not at all paid the money. And, they have also not paid the salaries. Now in this year, Renuka Sugar Factory has started crushing in the month of January, 2007 while they ought to have started it in September, 2006. Since they have started this factory late, there is remaining 10,000 MT of sugarcane still to be crushed.

About a week back, they have run away from that factory and they are not ready to crush the remaining sugarcane. Due to this, one Shri Ramappa Gundappa belonging to Balambid village in Hangal taluka has set afire his sugarcane crop and also killed himself in the land growing sugarcane. Under such circumstances, there are so many farmers who have been frustrated and heavy loss is caused to the farmers in my area.

In view of above, I urge upon the Central Government to interfere in the matter either to sell off this factory to a private owner or to give it on leasehold basis for long-term. If it is not at all possible, the Central Government should give special package, as it has given in the State of Maharashtra, to this factory and try to mitigate the difficulties of the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I want immediate relief for them. I would request the Government of India to direct the State Government that the remaining sugarcane, which is there, should be crushed immediately. This is my request.