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Title: Need to evolve a National Plan to help the sugarcane growers.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Rain can affect our lives by way of raining excessively or by way of failing to show up. The agriculturists who are dependent on rain cannot have their living conditions stable. Under these circumstances, proper security must be ensured by the Government to help the farmers to contribute to the economy. Sugarcane is a cash crop and agriculturists are forced to go for risky sugarcane cultivation only to make good the loss they have had previously. This year, we have witnessed in several parts of the country, the farmers are resorting to sugarcane cultivation. In the earlier years, drought conditions disappointed the agriculturists by way of affecting the sugarcane cultivation in a big way. If there is increased sugarcane production, in the absence of proper registration and proper procurement and timely crushing farmers are put to great hardship. Uniform crushing pattern and fixed remunerative prices are not there in place and, hence, sugarcane cultivators are faced with a big loss in many places this year. In the districts of Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Tiruppathur, which is my constituency, the sugarcane cultivators have got a good yield this year, but still they could not get timely procurement and remunerative price and hence they have been driven to their wit's end. Since sugarcane cultivation and sugar production is not restricted to a particular State, as they often turn out to be inter-state agricultural production activity, the Union Government must come forward to evolve the National Plan to help the sugarcane cultivators to augment the production and get uniform remunerative price. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers who have been worst hit by the successive drought prone years got a great helping hand from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi to get cooperative loan waiver but that relief has been taken away because of the disturbances caused by the unpredictable condition in the sugarcane market this year.

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Hence, I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to help the helpless farmers who are faced with great loss due to abundant sugarcane growth and drought prone conditions in some other places.

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