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Title: Need to take steps to reopen the Siruguppa Sugar factory Bellary district, Karnataka and ensure payment of the outstanding dues of the workers.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (BELLARY): Sir, Siruguppa Sugar factory in Deshnur, Siruguppa taluk, Bellary district, Karnataka was established in 1972 and it was earning profits till 1983-84. The total strength of the employees of the factory at present is 338. On the 25th February, 2003, without giving any notice, the factory was closed and all the 338 employees of this factory have become unemployed and jobless.

At the time of closure of this factory, about 70,000 tonnes of sugarcane was lying for crushing. Due to the sudden closure, the sugarcane farmers had no choice but to transport the sugarcane to another factory, which is about 300 kilometres away from this factory which caused huge financial loss to the farmers by way of transport of the sugarcane to a distant place.

The Deputy Labour Commissioner, Gulbarga division has instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary to arrange to pay the salary, outstanding previous bonus and other dues of Rs. 1,67,13,543 immediately to the employees. But the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary has not done anything so far. The employees of this factory are not getting their salary for the last 20 months.

I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and ensure that the salary dues are paid to the jobless employees immediately and issue necessary instructions to the management to reopen the factory so that the life of all the 338 employees and their families are saved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you have stated off the text will not go on record.