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Title: Problems being faced by Sugarcane growers in Karnataka.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Sir, I will speak only for five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak for two minutes only.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Thank you Chairman Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers. I also would like to associate myself with my friend and the Hon'ble Member, who has raised this issue prior to me.

Sir, I would like to confine my speech only to Karnataka. In Karnataka about 3 lakh 57 hectares of land is under sugarcane cultivation. During 2006-07, 240 lakh tonnes of sugarcane was grown. Out of 240 lakh tonnes 12 lakh tonnes had remained uncrushed. This year the total production of sugarcane is about 260 lakh tonnes. But it is a matter of great concern that the Government has not made any serious attempt to find a solution to the problem caused by excess production of sugarcane. On the other hand sugar mills have refused to crush the sugarcane. As a result sugarcane is being burnt in the fields itself. It has affected the farmers, who are the backbone of our economy.

Though the Government of Karnataka ordered to pay Rs.1,200/- per tonne of sugarcane only Rs.800/- is being paid by the sugar mills. It is lower than the cost of production of sugarcane. The dues to farmers owed by sugar mills amounts to Rs.160 crores.

Mahadeshwara sugar mill, and the Bannari Amman sugar mills in my Chamarajanagar district are cheating the innocent farmers while weighing. They are making unnecessary delay in buying sugarcane from the farmers. If the sugarcane is not purchased within 12 months it would dry up and as a result it loses its weight. It increases further the difficulties of the farmers. The above mentioned sugar mills are not maintaining the road construction, which is the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

responsibility of the mills concerned. The sugarcane growers are being paid only 50 percent of the total amount at the time of purchasing the sugarcane. The sugarcane growers are being exploited by not paying their due arrears. In the previous crushing season though the sugar mills have earned more profit the farmers are not given better deal. In this way farmers are being provided at least minimum support prices. Therefore, necessary action should be initiated against the sugar mills that are cheating the farmers.

Sir, Chamarajanagar district is one of the most backward districts in the country. There is no water sources except rain water. Farmers in my

district are facing difficulties in paying electricity bills. State Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingnar Karunanidhi has provided electricity to the farmers free of cost. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take all necessary steps to provide free electricity to all the farmers, and to fix the minimum support price of sugarcane. I would also like to suggest that uniformity should be maintained in case of MSP of sugar cane all over the country.

Finally, it is my humble submission to the Government of India to take all possible steps to help the hapless sugarcane growers. With this I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shivanna, please take your seat. Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement only will be recorded and nothing else.

*(Interruptions) â€ˆ**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना) : महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश में सूखे की समस्या को मैं सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is being recorded. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)