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Title: Need to determine price of farm produce on the basis of production cost.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): The issue of suicide by farmers all over India is a matter of serious concern of all of us. The issue has reached an alarming proportion since there is no improvement in situation in spite of announcement of various packages by State and Central Governments.

The budgetary allotment to agricultural sector has been gradually reduced from 34 to 11 per cent over last 30 years. We have been adopting short-term measures for helping the farmers in difficulties.

The guaranteed price for the farm output is one of the solutions to mitigate the problems of farmers. The present pricing system for all farm output is consumer-oriented and not production cost-oriented. This is the main reason why farmers are not able to survive the shock of not getting anything out of hard labour and the frustration is causing the farmers to seek the path of suicide due to heavy burden of debt. Thus, the cost of end product like sugar has tumbled down thus causing serious financial problem to sugar factories and farmers alike. Had an Statutory Minimum Price for sugar been fixed, this situation would not have arisen.

Sir, through your good offices, I urge the Government, to give serious rethinking on pricing policy of farm products and make efforts to fix statutory minimum price policy on all farm outputs based on production cost oriented. Further the Government, must provide funds to supplement the pricing policy, which will help the farmers to recover his production cost with reasonable profit.