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Title : Need to address the problems faced by sugarcane growers in Karnataka.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Sir, in Karnataka, thousands of farmers grow lakhs of tones of sugarcane every year. That is one of the major crops for the farmers in Karnataka. Unfortunately, from the last few months, farmers are in deep distress. जो फार्मर्स सबको मिलाई खिलाते हैं, they are in very deep distress. This is because of the very casual and careless attitude of the State Government. They were demanding Rs.2500 per tonne. An agitation was going on in front of the *Vidhan Saudha*, the Secretariat of the State Government. The Government did not care them. Even they did not bother to talk to them. Ultimately, one farmer committed suicide in front of the *Vidhan Saudha*, the Secretariat of the State Government.

This has happened when the Assembly Session was going on. After that, the State Chief Minister announced in the Assembly that Rs.2,500 would be fixed as MSP and Rs.150 would be the bonus from the side of the State Government. This is an addition from the State Government. But so far not a single factory or mill owner is ready to pay that much amount. Whatever amount is due according to the mill owners also, the same is not being paid to the farmers with the result farmers are on the streets. So far the Government has not acted. Mill owners have gone to the court and the Government is not trying to vacate the stay which is granted by the court. This is happening. I am raising this issue to bring this on record the fact that most of the State Cabinet Ministers are owning the sugar mills in Karnataka. That is why, they are not bothered to take care of farmers who grow sugarcane. This is happening in Karnataka. That is why, I urge upon the Central Government to issue specific directions to the State Government to take care of the farmers and make payment to farmers immediately. Otherwise, farmers would come to the streets. There will be problem like some farmers may attempt to commit suicide which would create lot of problems. That is not good. Hence, I once again urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter and give directions to the State Government.

HON. CHAIRPERSON :

Shri P.P. Chaudhary is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Pralhad Joshi.