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Title: Need to ensure Minimum Support Price for sugarcane to farmers and introduce a new scientific policy for the betterment of sugar and Jaggery Industry in Karnataka.

*SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU (MANDYA): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution about the pathetic condition of sugarcane farmers in the country, especially in Karnataka due to Minimum Support Price not being paid for sugarcane.

Sugarcane is one of the major crops in Karnataka and farmers in Mandya and other Districts are depending mainly on this crop for their survival. But, they are not getting Minimum Support Price for their produce. The farmers are suffering for not getting payment in time from the sugar industry factory owners. The farmers have recently agitated in front of Vidhan Saudha, Belgaum against non-increase of MSP and non release of payment in time to them. In this agitation, one farmer committed suicide which caused great unrest among the other farmers.

Due to non-availability of scientific policy for this sugar industry, the mill owners are also facing great problems. The basic jaggery crushing small industry is also facing problems due to not getting/renewal of crush licence in time, power problems and the present policy is not supporting the very small jaggery crushing industry and the small jaggery industry is on the verge of closure.

I urge upon the Union Government to increase the MSP for sugarcane and introduce the new Scientific Policy for this industry for survival of sugarcane farmers, sugarcane industry and the small jaggery industry in the country.