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Title: Regarding need to increase the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane-laid.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): India is the home to Sugarcane and Sugar. Large number of farmers in the country are engaged in the production of Sugarcane. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kamataka and Andhra Pradesh *are* leading in sugarcane production. During 1950-51, our cane production was 57.05 million tons, and now it has reached to 355 million tons. The number of sugar mills in the country has also increased from 29 in 1930-31 to more than 475 in 2007-2008.

The farmers engaged in cane production are instrumental in generating more foreign exchange to the Government by way of sugar exports. However, the farmers are not getting adequate support price for the sugarcane produced by them. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) headed by Prof. T. Haque has recommended Rs. 1550 per ton as Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) and an incentive of Rs. 140 for cane farmers. Despite this, the Government has fixed the current MSP at Rs. 811.80 which is same as was last year and much below the price as recommended by CACP. Due to this sugarcane growers are on the warpath, particularly in Tamil Nadu and they are organizing demonstrations throughout the State. Thousands of farmers organized a rally and agitated in Delhi on 10 December 2008. Hence, on behalf of the sugarcane growers, I urge upon the Union Government to fix the MSP at Rs. 2,000 for a ton of sugarcane.

Further, I urge upon the Union Government to waive off all outstanding loans of sugarcane farmers, irrespective of whether they are small, medium, and big farmers.

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.