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Title: Need to enhance the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Sugarcane is considered to be one of the main cash crops grown throughout our country more particularly in Tamil Nadu. Unlike other crops agriculturists, sugarcane growers have to wait for nearly one year to get the cash from the crop. The cost of inputs and labour charges during the planting of the crop, clearing of weeds, irrigation and cutting are increasing day by day. The average cost of cultivation per acre varies from Rs. 25,000/ to Rs. 30,000/-. The Government of India has fixed the Statutory Minimum Price at Rs. 812/- per ton of sugarcane. The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced the State Advisory Price at Rs. 238.70 per ton. Now a days fire wood which is grown without any care, attention and water is sold at Rs. 1500 to Rs. 1700/- per ton. Sugarcane is used for various purposes including for the production of industrial alcohol and some sugar mills are even using it for the generation of power. Hence sugarcane gives number of value added products apart from making sugar.

In order to save the cane growers from the grip of money-lender and rural indebtedness, I urge upon the Central Government to fix the Statutory Minimum Price as Rs. 2000/- per ton.