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Title: Regarding mismanagement in the Sangur sugar factory in Haveri district, Karnataka and urge upon the Central Govt. to announce a special package to save the factory.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Sir, I would like to speak from this seat.

Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. Sangur Sugar Factory is situated in Haveri District in Karnataka State on the banks of Varada River. This is run by a cooperative sugar factory. At present, it is finding it very difficult to run the factory. Many farmers have grown sugarcane in this year. There are no other sugar factories in the vicinity of more than 100 kms.

One Renuka Sugar Factory, which is located in Belgaum District of Karnataka State, has entered into an agreement. But Renuka Sugar Factory has failed and it has not acted as per the contract. Therefore, the entire sugarcane grown in that area is not crushed because of the late starting of the growing process. The irony is that one of the farmers belonging to Balambeed Village in Hanagal Taluka has burnt his entire sugarcane grown in his own land before killing himself in fire. This most unfortunately incident happened because M/s. Renuka Sugar Factory did not buy his sugarcane crop.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice one Shri Durgappa Talwar, who has worked for 18 years in that factory has committed suicide on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. In this connection, I think, there is no other sugar factory like Sangur Sugar Factory in the entire country. About 647 employees are on streets now. The factory has the capacity to run, but there is mismanagement with the result it has become very difficult for the employees to work in that factory. Therefore, I would like to bring to your kind notice – I have papers with me – that children of the employees had gone on 'sit on' strike before the office of the Deputy Commissioner. Not only that, the womenfolk, the wives of the employees, have spent their night in the office of the Deputy Commissioner. They have also indulged in *Rasta Rokho* on the National Highway. â€¦  
(*Interruptions*)

In that area, a number of Swamijis have also come forward to fight for the cause of the workers of Sangur Sugar Factory and they have even offered gifts to the employees in this hour of need.

I am coming to the conclusion. This is one of the most important incidents. Therefore, I would like to suggest that instead of giving away factories on leasehold in future to factories like Sangur Sugar Factory, efforts should be made to sell off such factories to private parties in the larger interests of the farmers. Or else, the Government should take over the factory and help the farmers and factory employees. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the UPA Government and the Ministry of Agriculture to announce a special package to this factory.