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Title : Need to address the problem of farmers whose land have been acquired by cement companies in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): As we all are aware that the Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh is endowed with mineral potentialities and is spread throughout District. In particular, Lime Stone (Cement) Mineral is having its reserves at Dachepalli, Macherla, Durga Puram, Karempudi, Jettipalem etc. So far a good number of cement factories are permitted to be established here. The Management are taking thousands of hectares of Patta land for lease, besides Government land and Forest land. They are being covered with barbed wire fencing. As a result, the land is becoming barren without produce of either grass to livestock or cultivation by farmers. At the time of lease, the farmers were promised that bright future would be there for them and their children. When stone crushers were established in the villages, the children belonging to the families whose land was taken were promised that they would be provided better employment, school buildings, hospitals etc. But in practice, nothing happened as promised. Whenever, blasting in quarries is conducted, it results into damage to the houses as well as Bore wells and water could not be extracted from the bore-wells and the villagers are facing loss of crop etc. So far, it is learnt there are 31 Leases in the area of 4850.87 hectares land and also many new firms are being launched by acquiring Government and Forest lands, besides patta lands. In fact, many of the firms did not establish the Cement factories on time. The farmers are facing difficulties in respect of food, fodder for cattle, barren land, finance and in social fields. In view of the above it can be averred that the private companies have made the lives of farmers difficult by acquiring patta lands and not fulfilling the promises. In view of the above situation, I request that all cases of lease be re-examined, identify the defaulters, and take stringent action against them duly withdrawing the permission already granted besides handing over the land to the farmers back without any compensation to the defaulting companies.

Further, I request the Government, to instruct the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to examine the issue in-depth and take appropriate and urgent remedial measures and to come to the rescue of those farmers who suffered due to the irregular and unwanted actions of the industrialists, since they have not established the factories till now.