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Title: Issue regarding sugarcane arrears across the country.

SHRI R. DHIRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

I want to raise an important issue regarding sugarcane arrears across the country. Nearly, Rs. 12,300 crore of arrears is there, especially, in the State of Uttar Pradesh about Rs. 4,628 crore arrear is there; Rs. 2,679.40 crore arrear is there in Karnataka; and Rs. 1,649 crore arrear is there in Maharashtra.

As per the Sugarcane Control Order, the farmers are supposed to receive payment for sugarcane within 14 days of supplying sugarcane to the mills. However, it has been months, and farmers still have not received the payment. The reason for this is that the prices of sugar and raw sugar have crashed in the domestic market, and mills are in losses. Further, some of them have been declared sick and have applied for reconstruction.

Last year, the Central Government had announced a subsidy for export of raw sugar up to 4 million tonnes in order to help the industry and clear sugarcane arrears to farmers. However, the scheme expired in the month of September. Hence, the Government needs to review the export subsidy scheme in a timely and regular manner. In this regard, I would request the Minister of Agriculture, through you, Sir, to ensure that sugarcane arrears are cleared as early as possible.