

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:298
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
PAYMENT TO SUGARCANE GROWERS
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of Sugarcane Commissioners of different States in September, 2000 to deliberate on a strategy for ensuring expeditious payment of arrears to the farmers by the sugar mills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the suggestions and recommendations made in the meeting for ensuring immediate payment of arrears to the farmers by the sugar mills; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d)) STARRED QUESTION NO. 298 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 08-12-2000.

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. A meeting of Cane Commissioners of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh which had relatively higher cane price arrears was convened by the Secretary (Food & Public Distribution) on 06.09.2000 to discuss the measures for expeditiously liquidating the cane price arrears of these States.

(c) & (d) : With a view to expeditiously liquidating the cane price arrears, the representatives of the State Government requested for advance release of freesale sugar to the factories having cane price arrears. They were advised to ask the concerned sugar mills to apply for release of advance free sale quota as per the existing guidelines. It was also informed that the Government would consider higher advance free sale quota than the quota as per the existing guidelines in exceptional cases.

Accordingly, the Central Government have granted advance free sale quota to 33 sugar factories of various States including the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in the month of September 2000 for utilizing the sale proceeds exclusively for payment of cane price dues. These advance releases are higher than the quota as per existing guidelines.