

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
RELEASE OF SUGAR QUOTA
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line beneficiaries are not getting sugar because the sugar mills are not releasing the sugar quota to the States despite the directives of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States where releasing of sugar quota was delayed; and
- (c) the reasons for such delay alongwith the action taken by the Government against the errant sugar mills?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): In February, 2001, the Central Government, in a move towards better targeting in Public Distribution System (PDS), has restricted the supply of levy sugar under PDS to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country except in the North-Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories, where universal coverage was allowed to continue. The Central Government is allocating levy sugar to all States/ UTs. on monthly basis and there has been no delay in releasing the levy sugar quota. Where the State Governments/UT Administrations or their lifting agencies report non-availability of levy sugar from concerned sugar mills, re-allocation is made from other sugar mills. Penal action has been initiated against chronically defaulting sugar mills under the relevant provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.