

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:553
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
DISCREPANCIES IN SUGAR ESTIMATES
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the figures relating to the estimates of sugar production in the country for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 were frequently revised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such discrepancies in estimates adversely impacted the sugar management in the country and its price;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.553 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.05.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)to(e): The Central Government holds meetings/interacts with the Cane Commissioners/Director of Sugars of major sugarcane producing States regularly to update the estimates of sugar production in a season. The Cane commissioners had furnished sharply varying estimates of sugar production during the last sugar seasons 2008-09 and current season 2009-10 as given below:-

Sl.No. Date of estimates Estimated Sugar Production
(in lac tons)

Sugar Season 2008-09

1	05.08.2008	220
2	23.10.2008	205
3	Mid-December,2008	188
4	11.02.2009	161
5	23.06.2009	148

Sugar Season 2009-10

6	23.06.2009	165
7	06.11.2009	146
8	19.02.2010	156-163
9	April,2010	185

The Cane Commissioners lowered the estimates of sugar production in the sugar season 2008-09 mainly on account of decline in sugarcane production and disproportionately lower drawal rate i.e. its higher level of diversion for manufacturing of gur and khandsari. Besides, shift in acreage from sugarcane to other foodgrain crops and fall in recovery rate of sugar from sugarcane, led to lower level of sugar production. Further, prolonged vagaries of monsoon also impacted sugarcane production during 2009-10. All these made it difficult to accurately estimate sugar production.

Availability of accurate estimates of production facilitates appropriate response of the Central Government in time. Sharply low production of sugar had put pressure on its management and prices.

The Central Government has advised the Cane Commissioners to furnish estimate of sugar production as accurately as possible.