

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:233
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
SHORTAGE OF SUGAR
Pakkirappa Shri S.;Vardhan Shri Harsh

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

- (a) whether shortage of sugar has been witnessed during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the production vis-a- vis demand and price of sugar during the said period;
- (c) whether sugar was imported/exported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum and price alongwith the quantity of raw sugar imported; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken to ensure availability of sugar at cheaper rates?

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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2010

(a) & (b): There has been no shortage of sugar in the market during the last one year and its availability has remained adequate. Low sugar production in the country during the last 2008-09 sugar season (October-September) and during current 2009-10 sugar season in comparison to the estimated domestic demand put pressure on prices of sugar. The estimated sugar season-wise production vis-à-vis demand of sugar during the last sugar season and current sugar season is as below:-

(Figures in Lac tons)
Particulars 2008-09 2009-10

Production of Sugar 146.8 185
Internal demand 220 22

To bridge the gap between the production and demand, the Central Government has permitted duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar which is in force upto 31.12.2010.

A statement indicating the month-wise range of ex-mill prices of sugar in major sugar producing states and retail price of sugar in the four metropolitan cities of the country during the last one year is placed at Annexure.

(c)& (d): There has been no export or import of sugar on Government account during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season. It is the sugar mills, Public Sector Undertakings or merchant importers/exporters who have undertaken export or import of sugar as per their commercial prudence. As the international sugar prices of sugar have varied from time to time, it is not possible to indicate the price at which sugar was exported or imported. The quantum of export and import of sugar including raw sugar during the last three sugar seasons as well as current sugar season is as under –

Sugar season Quantity exported Quantity imported
(in lac tons) (in lac tons)

2006-07	24.91	0.005
2007-08	58.22	0.004
2008-09	2.165	15.49#
2009-10	0.213	30.20#

(upto March, 2010) (upto 3rd Aug, 10)

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata.

As per Department of Revenue.

(e): The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of sugar so as to ensure availability of sugar at reasonable prices which, inter-alia, include permitting duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010, imposition of stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers, stockholding limit on bulk consumers of sugar. The Forward Markets Commission has also suspended futures trading in sugar upto September 2010 in domestic market.