

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3087

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

PRODUCTION OF ETHANOL

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the production of ethanol directly from sugarcane is permitted in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of mills producing ethanol directly from sugarcane and the manner in which it is being utilised;
- (c) whether the production of ethanol from molasses instead of sugarcane has been found to be more useful and beneficial;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the request of some States for production of ethanol from sugarcane juice has been rejected by the Government;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to permit production of ethanol from sugarcane juice to encourage production of sugarcane; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a): The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 was amended vide notification dated 28th December, 2007 to provide for direct conversion of sugarcane juice to ethanol by sugar factories.
- (b): As per available information no sugar mill is producing ethanol directly from sugarcane at present.
- (c) & (d): The sugarcane juice required to produce one quintal of sugar will give about 60 litres of ethanol, and, therefore, the price of ethanol has to be about 1.6 times the price of sugar to make such diversion of juice away from sugar to ethanol commercially viable. Production of ethanol from molasses is thus commercially more beneficial rather than from sugarcane juice directly.
- (e) & (f): The request of the Government of Bihar for withdrawing amendment dated 28th December, 2007 made to the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 permitting only sugar factories to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice has not been found acceptable as per the extant legal provisions.
- (g): No, Madam.
- (h): Does not arise.