

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2080
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
FUNCTIONING OF HBL SUGAR MILL
Devi Aswamedh

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

- (a) whether during the current crushing season, HPCL Biofuels Ltd. (HBL) operated Sugar Mills/Plants are not running smoothly due to mismanagement in administration which has resulted in dissatisfaction/distress among various stakeholders especially sugarcane growers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for closure of the Mill during the season;
- (c) the details of the mechanism available for grievance redressal;
- (d) whether pollution created due to ethanol production by the HBL Mill/Plant is causing public health hazards in the region; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The Government of Bihar has informed that Lauriya & Sugauli units of HPCL Biofuels Ltd. (HBL) have started crushing operation from the current sugar season 2011-12. Their crushing performance upto 15.03.2012 is as under:-

	Cane Crushed (In Lakh Quintals)	Sugar Produced (In Lakh Quintals)	Recovery percentage
Lauriya	14.00	0.55	7.08
Sugauli	14.32	0.69	8.30

Further, the Government of Bihar has informed that, as the units of HBL have started commercial production this year only, they are facing initial teething problems. However, both the units of HBL are promptly paying cane price dues to the farmers

- (b): The Government of Bihar has informed that both the units are running as on date.
- (c): As per provisions contained in Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, it is obligatory on the part of sugar mills to pay the sugarcane prices to the sugarcane growers within 14 days of delivery, failing which interest on the amount due is payable @ 15% for the period of delay beyond 14 days. The powers of enforcing the provisions of the said Order, relating to payment of cane price dues of sugarcane farmers, are delegated and vested with the State Government concerned who have necessary field formations.
- (d): The Government of Bihar has informed that no such complaint has been received.
- (e): Does not arise.