

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2995  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
QUALITY OF SUGARCANE  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the content of sucrose in sugarcane produced in the country;
- (b) the research and development works done to increase the sucrose content and thereby increase the quantity of sugar from indigenous source;
- (c) the Food and Agriculture Organisation/internationally accepted sucrose content in sugarcane;
- (d) whether any special quality of seeds are available which ensure maximum sucrose content;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to launch a special awareness campaign for sugarcane growers for resorting to better seeds and adopting latest technologies to enhance sugar output qualitatively and quantitatively; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) Whereas traditional varieties yielded around 15% sucrose in sugarcane juice in India, varieties being currently grown have 17% to 19% sucrose content in sugarcane juice in the sub-tropical regions of the country and 18 to 21.5% sucrose content in sugarcane juice in the tropical regions of the country. Recovery of sugar is, on the average, around 10.5, ranging between 8.5% to 13.5% in different parts of the country.
- (b) Research to increase the sucrose content in sugarcane varieties has led to release of several new varieties for increased sucrose content. Several higher sugar-yielding varieties have been released for various sugarcane growing states. Such notified varieties are also tolerant to key biotic and abiotic stresses and are under cultivation in the country. The higher sucrose in indigenous varieties could provide better sugar recovery. Scientific planning of identified varieties for cultivation in desirable agro-climate, maturity-wise harvesting and minimum cut-to-crush time could result in higher sucrose yield.
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organisation International has not prescribed any standards, regarding sucrose content for sugarcane.
- (d) Several varieties that have sucrose content in juice, ranging from 17.5 to 19.37 percent, have been released for cultivation. The list of such varieties is given at Annexure-I.
- (e) Yes, Madam.
- (f) The Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore; Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow and All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane organize meetings with stakeholders, in which information about new sugarcane varieties and technologies are given to concerned officials of mills and cane departments of states from whom such knowledge percolate down to cane growers. Further, training programme on sugarcane production technologies and annual Kisan Melas are organized for exhorting sugarcane farmers for the adoption of latest technologies to enhance production and productivity of sugarcane. The concerned Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also involved in the assessment and refinement of various technologies including varieties, crop husbandry and crop health management so as to demonstrate the proven technologies to farmers.