

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4288

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

PRICE RISE IN BAGASSE

Vyas Dr.(Kum.) Girija

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

- (a) whether the price of bagasse has risen sharply during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request for controlling the prices of bagasse; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Bagasse is a by product of sugar industry which serves as captive fuel for generation of steam and power for running of the factories. Some sugar factories sell their surplus bagasse which is generally bought by cogeneration units producing power as well as paper mills/board manufacturers for production of paper/ Libre board.

The prices of bagasse during 2007-08 and 2008-09 was Rs.92-120 and Rs.150- 250per quintal of bagasse . In the years of low production of sugarcane and sugar and consequently low overall availability of surplus bagasse, the price is driven by demand. Production of sugarcane and sugar during the sugar season 2008-09 was less than the requirement and therefore surplus availability of bagasse was also less leading to increase in prices.

(c): Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not received any such request.

(d): In view of (c) above, Does not arise.