

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
AVAILABILITY OF SUGAR
Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) whether rise in price, shortage and scarcity of sugar has been reported in the country during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the production, 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 including the quantum and price of unprocessed sugar imported; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken to ensure the availability of sugar at cheaper rates?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21.08.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b): Adequate quantity of sugar has been made available through regulated release mechanism under which the Central Government releases non-levy sugar quota for sale in the open market on monthly/quarterly basis and there has been no shortage or scarcity of sugar in the market during the last one year. Besides, the Government also releases levy sugar for distribution under Public Distribution System for the entire country. The market prices of sugar also remained stable upto June, 2012 but started showing an upward trend from July, 2012 onwards. This recent increase in sugar prices is possibly on account of deficient monsoon leading to market's expectation of lower production in the ensuing 2012-13 sugar season, fluctuation in International sugar prices, etc. The details of production, demand and the range of all India average retail price of sugar during last sugar season and current sugar season are given below:-

Sugar Season (October -September)	Sugar Production (in Lac Tons)	Demand (Levy Non-Levy) made for Domestic Consumption	Range of All India Average Retail Price of Sugar (Rs. per Kg.)#
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2010-11	243.50	208	30.24 - 33.40
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2011-12 (Current)	260 (Estimated)	220 (Estimated)	32.08 - 38.43 (upto 14th August, 2012)
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Source: Price Monitoring Cell of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

(c) & (d): There has been no import /export of sugar on Government account during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season. The exports/imports of sugar are carried out by sugar mills / merchant importers - exporters as per their commercial prudence. The price of sugar in International market varies from time to time. As such, it is not possible to indicate the price at which unprocessed sugar was imported. However, the quantum of sugar imported/exported during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season is tabulated below:

Sugar Season (October -September)	Total Sugar Exports (in Lac Tons)	Total Sugar Imports (in Lac Tons)	Quantum of Unprocessed Sugar Import (in Lac Tons)
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2008-09 2.17 13.47 11.98

2009-10 2.15 23.83 17.00

2010-11 29.17 4.55 4.52

2011-12 13.51 0.49 0.49
(upto March,
2012)

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata.

(e): It is the endeavour of the Government to keep sugar prices stable through the policy of regulated release mechanism. To control rise in sugar prices, the Government has recently released extra quotas for the open market as under:-

- (i) The unsold non-levy quota of about 2 lac tons from April to June quarter was allowed on 13.07. 2012 for sale in the open market upto 14.08.2012;
- (ii) Sugar mills have been directed on 24.07.2012 to sell at least 70% of July- September quota by August, 2012;
- (iii) Additional quota of 2.66 lac tons has been released on 27th July, 2012 to be sold off by 31st August, 2012; and
- (iv) Another additional quota of 4 lac tons has been released on 7th August, 2012 to be sold off by 31st August, 2012.