

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:339

ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012

SUGAR PRODUCTION

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether drought and diversion of sugarcane as fodder has affected sugarcane availability for production of sugar;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with its likely impact on the availability and price of sugar during the ensuing year; and
- (c) the corrective steps 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) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 339 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.09.2012

(a) to (c): The State Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported that drought conditions and diversion of some sugarcane as fodder will adversely affect the availability of sugarcane for crushing in the ensuing sugar season. The exact position would be known only after the first advance estimates of sugarcane production are released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. However, as per the reports received from the major sugar producing States and also the sugar industry, likely production of sugar in the country will be sufficient to meet the domestic requirement.

The price of sugar depends upon various factors namely, sugar production, carryover stocks, domestic demand, international sugar prices and market sentiments etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the impact of drought and diversion of sugarcane as fodder on the prices of sugar during the ensuing sugar season at this stage. However, it would be the endeavor of the Government to keep sugar prices stable in the open market through the policy of regulated release mechanism.