

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3635
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
SHORTAGE OF SUGARCANE
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether drought and diversion of cane as fodder have reduced sugarcane availability for sugar production;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per reports received from the Cane Commissioners of the major sugar producing States, Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported reduction in sugarcane availability for sugar production due to drought and diversion of cane as fodder in their States. The Cane Commissioner of Tamil Nadu has reported that drought situation has marginally reduced sugarcane availability for sugar production. As per 2nd Advance estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation released in February, 2013 for 2012-13 sugar season, the production of sugarcane is estimated at 3345.41 lac tons as compared to final estimates of 3610.37 lac tons for the last sugar season 2011-12.

(c): The Government of Maharashtra has informed that in order to improve the productivity of sugarcane and to overcome the shortage of seed for plantation in 2013-14 sugar season, they have taken the extensive training programme of the agriculture officers of the sugar mills and the State Agricultural Department staff. Further, the Central Government provides concessional loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.