

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:773

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

CRUSHING OF SUGARCANE

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Singh Shri Pradeep Kumar;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the crushing of sugarcane has been delayed in some States during the sugar season 2013-14;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with its impact on sugar production and its estimation during the current season indicating the names of the States where crushing was delayed during the last three years and in the present sugar season;
- (c) whether the Government has received any memorandum/representation from the sugarcane farmers in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government is aware about delay and non-payment of dues to the sugarcane growers by the owners of sugar mills in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the amount outstanding against the sugar mills during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government to facilitate the payment of dues to sugarcane growers and the time by which the dues are likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF 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, the crushing operations have been delayed in some states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The reasons for delay are indicated below:-

State	Reason
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Andhra Pradesh	Recent cyclone in the month of October and November, 2013
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Karnataka & Maharashtra	Farmers agitation for higher sugarcane price.
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Uttar Pradesh	Non-acceptance of State Advised Price (SAP) by the U.P. Sugar Mills Association.
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Uttarakhand	Delay in issuing order regarding cane area allotments to the mills.
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Delay in commencement of cane crushing may not have any significant impact on sugar production in the current sugar season which is estimated to be about 241 lac tons. No significant delay in commencement of crushing operations was reported during the last three sugar seasons.

(c) Yes, Madam. The Government has received representations/ memoranda from farmers' organizations and Apex bodies of sugar industry on various issues. The Government has formed an Informal Group of Union Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture to look into the problems being faced by sugar industry.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. The domestic sugar surplus coupled with global surplus has resulted in low sugar prices in the domestic market leading to a situation of low realization from sugar sales. This has adversely affected the financial health of the sugar mills causing delay in timely payment of dues to cane farmers. The amount outstanding against the sugar mills during the last three sugar seasons, State/UT-wise as on 31.10.2013 is indicated at Annexure.

(f) The Cane Commissioners of major sugarcane growing states have informed that they have issued notices against the defaulting sugar mills and are making efforts to liquidate the cane price arrears.