

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3849

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

STOCK OF SUGAR

Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) the present stock of sugar in the country along with the estimated production in 2013-14 and projections for 2014-15;
- (b) the estimated domestic consumption of sugar in the country for 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow import of raw sugar and sugar during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of raw sugar imported during the last three years and proposed imports during the above period;
- (e) whether suggestions have been received to ban import of raw sugar; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) As per the online information received from the sugar mills, the stock of sugar with the mills as on 31st January, 2014 was at about 117 lac tons (Provisional). The production of sugar is provisionally estimated at about 241 lac tons during the current sugar season 2013-14. It is too early to make projections of sugar production for the ensuing sugar season 2014-15.

(b) The consumption of sugar in the country is provisionally estimated at about 235 lac tons for sugar season 2013-14. As per Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL), the domestic consumption of sugar is set to increase at a compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 3 to 4% during next few years.

(c) & (d) The sugar mills/ merchant importers are free to import sugar including raw sugar as per their commercial prudence subject to payment of customs duty which is presently 15%. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata, 3.36, 1.89 and 17.12 Lac tons of raw sugar was imported under various schemes during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 sugar seasons respectively. During current sugar season 2013-14, about 0.94 lac tons of raw sugar has been imported till November, 2013. The import of sugar depends upon various factors namely, sugar production, availability and the prices of sugar in the domestic as well as international market and level of customs duty etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the quantum of raw sugar likely to get imported during the remaining period of sugar season 2013-14 and ensuing sugar season 2014-15.

(e) & (f) The apex bodies of the sugar industry represented the Government to either increase the import duty or put ban on import of sugar. The Government has considered their request and increased the customs duty on import of sugar from 10 to 15 percent with effect from 08.07.2013 to discourage imports.