

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5655
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
CONFERENCE ON FOOD
Singh Shri Rama Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Government has convened any meeting of concerned Chief Ministers on issues related to implementation of Food Security Act for ensuring payment of sugarcane dues and timely opening of adequate number of procurement centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the matters raised and the recommendations made therein;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted the representatives of farmers in this regard and taken initiatives to set up a farmers commission for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): A meeting was held on 16th April, 2015 with Ministers of sugar producing States regarding the present crisis in the sugar sector. The participants deliberated upon the prevailing situation regarding cane price arrears and issues relating to import duty on sugar, creation of buffer stock, fixation of higher rate for ethanol produced from B-Molasses and more SEFASU (Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings) loans to sugar mills. As National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 has nothing to do with sugar or payment of cane price dues, issues relating to NFSA or its implementation were not discussed. The meeting was in the nature of an informal discussion; suggestions of the participants were noted. The Central Government takes appropriate decisions at appropriate time to protect the interest of all stakeholders viz. sugarcane farmers, sugar industry and consumers.

(c) & (d) A meeting was earlier held on 15th April, 2015 with the cane farmers and their representatives wherein the problems of cane farmers arising out of the current crisis in the sugar sector were discussed. There is no such proposal to set up a farmers commission.