

**Title:** Requests to increase the levy sugar price for the season 1998-99 immediately.

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (KOPERGAON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties being faced by the sugar factories. The levy prices for sugar factories for the season 1998-99 are not yet fixed. Though they are not fixed, the Government has already started lifting the sugar of 1998-99 season for the purpose of public distribution. The prices given to the sugar factories for this are the prices notified for the season 1997-98. After the announcement of levy sugar prices for 1998-99 season, the differential amount is to be paid to the sugar factories.

As this puts the sugar factories in great difficulty in getting their claims settled and as huge amounts are lost by them, I urge upon the Government to fix the levy sugar prices for season 1998-99 immediately. I urge upon the Government to henceforth fix the levy sugar prices well before the commencement of every crushing season. As there is considerable increase in the cost of production of sugar because of increase in wages, transporting, harvesting, electricity, chemicals, packaging material, etc., sugar factories are incurring heavy losses because of giving away the levy sugar at a very low rate.

सभापति महोदय : कृपया पढ़िये नहीं। ऐसे ही बोलिये।

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Sir, to protect the interest of the sugarcane-producing farmers, I request the Government to increase the levy sugar price considerably for this season. I would like the Minister to respond to it.