

ore. We must export value added products instead of exporting iron ore. At the same time, I am not aware of any mafia as such. I think, this question should be addressed to the Mines Ministry.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, exporting cannot be at a throwaway price.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply reflects the complacency. When the record says that in 2009-10, the finished steel capacity was 59.69 million tones, the domestic demand was 56.48 million tones. The margin is very thin. Our country is also exporting steel to outside. If the export is also taken into account, I think, we are in shortage of steel. Hon. Minister himself has assured that 120 million tones capacity would be reached by 2020. My question to the hon. Minister is: If that is the vision of production by 2020, the input requirement within the country, particularly the precious iron ore, will also go up. So, will the Minister seriously consider to put an absolute ban on export of all kinds of iron ore... which the hon. Minister himself just now told, are being sold at throwaway prices. So, I would like to know whether that 'selling at throwaway prices' requires a ban and whether the Steel Minister is going to take a serious step in that direction.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, so far as I am concerned, as a Minister of Steel, I have a considered view that there should be a total ban on the export of iron-ores so as to meet the domestic requirement of the country. But, of course, the Government does not function only with one Ministry. I will impress upon the Government, upon the Prime Minister and upon the Finance Minister also to consider the proposal for a total ban on export of iron-ores. But it can be achieved through other methods also. It can be achieved by some taxation measures also to discourage the export of iron-ores.

Import of raw sugar

*505. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported in the financial year 2009-10;
- (b) whether there is any problem in processing of raw imported sugar in the country, especially in Jharkhand; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to sort out the matter and also to increase the availability of sugar in the domestic market in order to control the soaring prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) As per report dated 07.04.2010 of the Department of Revenue, the quantity of the custom cleared imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar in financial year 2009-10 (from 17.4.2009 to 31.3.2010) is 26.84 lac tons and 12.64 lac tons respectively.

(b) and (c) Due to restrictions imposed in November, 2009 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh on transportation and movement of imported raw sugar in the state, processing of imported raw sugar was affected. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has since lifted the restrictions in February, 2010. At present, no problem has been reported by the sugar mills/refineries in processing of raw imported sugar from anywhere in the country. There is no sugar mill/refinery in the State of Jharkhand. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to increase the availability of sugar in the domestic market and to control prices of sugar as indicated in the given Statement-I.

Statement-I

*Measures taken to increase availability of sugar and control sugar prices in
2008-09 and 2009-10 sugar seasons*

- Allowed duty- free import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills on ton-to-ton basis with effect from 17.02.2009 upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed duty-free import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Open General License with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to private trade from 31.07.2009 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty-free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to other Central/State Government agencies and private trade in addition to existing designated agencies with effect from 31.07.2009. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010 with out any quantitative cap.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.
- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production for 2009-10 sugar season only.
- Stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers were imposed vide notification dated 12.03.2009. Further, Khandasari sugar has been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit from 16.07.2009. Presently these limits are in force upto 30.09.2010.

- An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.09.2009. The stockholding limit has been lowered to ten days, and the revised limit has come into effect from 20.02.2010.
- Futures trading in sugar in domestic exchanges has been suspended *w.e.f.* 27th May 2009 to curb any possible speculative tendency. Currently, this is in force upto September, 2010.

श्री धीरज प्रसाद साहू : सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे अवसर दिया, उसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी का जवाब काफी संतोषजनक है एवं इस संबंध में सरकार की ओर से बहुत से सराहनीय कदम उठाए गए हैं। महोदय, देश में चीनी की वार्षिक जरूरत 23 मिलियन टन है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि चीनी के उत्पादन और जरूरत में जो फर्क है, उसको पूरा करने के लिए क्या सरकार किसी विशेष योजना पर काम कर रही है? यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सच है कि पिछले साल हिन्दुस्तान में चीनी का उत्पादन कम हुआ था, वह 150 लाख टन से नीचे हुआ था और देश की जरूरत 220-230 लाख टन के आसपास थी, इसलिए चीनी की कीमतें ऊपर गयी थीं। ऐसी स्थिति में इम्पोर्ट करने का एक रास्ता हमारे सामने था। आज खुशी की बात यह है कि अभी तक चीनी production की जो फिगर्स मेरे पास हिन्दुस्तान से आ रही हैं, वह 180 लाख टन के आसपास हैं और इस साल पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड अच्छा मिल रहा है इसलिए इस साल ज्यादा चीनी पैदा हो सकती है और देश में imported sugar, plus sugar which is produced in the country, इनसे देश की जो जरूरत है, वह पूरी होनी की परिस्थिति सामने आ रही है। जहां तक अगले साल का प्लांटेशन का सवाल है, सभी राज्यों में रिकार्ड देखने के बाद अगले साल excess production हो जाएगी, ऐसी स्थिति आज हिन्दुस्तान में मुझे दिखाई दे रही है। इसीलिए मार्किट में रेट पर इसका असर हो रहा है, यह बात सबके सामने आयी है।

श्री धीरज प्रसाद साहू : महोदय, सरकार के द्वारा कच्चा चीनी आयात पर जीरो ड्यूटी ओजीएल के अधीन 31 दिसंबर, 2010 तक जारी रखने से क्या खुदरा बाजार में चीनी की कीमत और कम होने की संभावना है?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I think, in the last Parliament Session, this issue was discussed. At that time, the price of sugar in open wholesale market was something about Rs. 4,800 per quintal. Two days back, the price, which we have collected from all over the country, was somewhat near to Rs. 2,550 per quintal. So, it has come down from Rs. 4,800 per quintal to Rs. 2,550 per quintal, plus excise duty. So, the trend is definitely going down.

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply, in the measures taken, it is mentioned, "Allowed duty-free import" and "Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar.." Is it a fact that this is going to affect the sugar mills of our country? As per the reply of the hon. Minister, next year, the production is going to be surplus. I would like to know whether the sugar mills can pay the same price for cane which they are paying now. This is

a very serious matter. Is the Government going to continue the same policy on import of sugar, that is, without levy and duty-free import of sugar? Are you going to do this for the indigenous sugar factories also?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Till last year, there was a tax up to 60 per cent for import of sugar, but when there was a shortage, there was a mismatch between demand and supply. When we realized that we are not in a position to produce as per the requirements of the country, there was no alternative but to import and resolve the problems of the consumers. So, for the sake of providing incentive to imports, it is true that, we took this decision — ‘no duty on import’ this is number one; ‘no levy’ this is number two and ‘no release mechanism’, this is number three.’ So, these three major concessions were given which are not available for domestic industries and domestic producers. But that was the situation last year. As I said, today, the position is altogether different. It is true that there is more production. Trend is, definitely, of more production and prices are going down. We have to protect sugarcane farmers. If we have to protect sugarcane farmers, definitely, the Government has to take a decision at an appropriate time to keep a level-playing field for both of them.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, मंत्री जी ने जो जबाव दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि कई कदम सरकार ने दामों को नियंत्रण में लाने के लिए उठाए हैं। लेकिन आज भी चीनी का दाम बाजार में 35 रुपये किलो है। इससे स्पष्ट है कि सरकार ने जो मैजर्स उठाए, वे बिल्कुल असफल रहे, फेल रहे। मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से और मंत्री जी से सवाल है कि आपने जो यहां एक से पांच तक मुद्दे गिनाए हैं, ये तमाम मुद्दे बड़ी शुगर मिल्स को कंसेशन देने वाले मुद्दे हैं। मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि इसका मानेद्वी वैल्यू क्या है? जितने कंसेशन्स आपने इन कदमों में मिल्स को दिए हैं, उनकी वैल्यू क्या है? अगर आप इसके बारे में बता दें, तो अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री शरद पवार : सर, पहली बात तो यह है चीनी के दाम नीचे नहीं जा रहे हैं, यह बात सच नहीं है। माननीय सदस्या ने कहा कि आज 35 रुपये किलो चीनी का दाम रिटेल में है, ठीक है, it is between Rs.33/- and Rs.35/-. But, in some places, it is Rs.35/- also. But I recollect that in the same House, in the last Session, an issue was raised that prices reached to Rs.49/- to Rs.50/- per kilo. So, it has come down from Rs.50/- to Rs.35/-. That means, trend is, definitely, indicating as to in which direction it is going. A question was also raised about concessions. What concessions have been given? Duty-free import has been allowed. ..(Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : पहले 15 रुपये किलो में चीनी मिलती थी।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the question to be answered.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Duty-free import has been allowed. And the total quantity which has been imported — that figure has been given here — is somewhat near to 26.84 and 12.64 altogether. So, one will have to calculate, because at that time 60 per cent duty was there. So, it will be : the quantity of sugar X 60 per cent duty. I have got the figures ready with me, but it is an open secret. ..(Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : सर, 15 रुपये से 50 रुपये चीनी के दाम कर दिए और फिर 50 रुपये से 35 रुपये चीनी के दाम आ गए, तो चीनी कहां सस्ती हुई? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the next question. ...*(Interruptions)*..

श्री शरद पवार : सर, 15 रुपये किलो में चीनी देने के दिन गए। ...(व्यवधान)... किसानों को उनकी उपज की ठीक कीमत देनी होगी, तभी किसान गन्ना लगाएंगे। अगर किसान गन्ना नहीं लगाएंगे, तो चीनी के दाम 50 रुपये किलो तक जा सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, we are running out of precious time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Punj, please. Please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Mr. Anbalagan. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप जरा दूसरों को भी सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप जरा दूसरों को भी सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, it is the mills which are making money. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Those who understand the sugarcane farming know this. You can ask the hon. Members who are sitting by your side and who are in sugarcane plantation. Those who are in sugarcane plantation never got this price in their lifetime. They know what price they got last year. Nobody has seen that type of price. You can ask your own colleagues. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid you are preventing the other Member from asking a question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mrs. Karat, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anbalagan, go ahead.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, what is this answer? Every input has gone up and he is saying that *kisans* are getting very good price. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no; you had asked a question and it has been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anbalagan, please go ahead.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that various measures have been suggested to increase the availability of sugar. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister whether these measures served the purpose and whether they are adequate.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, if a proper price is provided to the sugarcane grower, he will definitely take an interest in sugarcane plantation, and, if the ample plantation is there, automatically the price will be maintained at a particular level. The reason I am saying why the farmer is going more for sugarcane plantation is because he has got a good price for his produce, and, I am sure, the prices will go down.

*506. [The questioner (Shri K.E. Esmail) was absent.]