

In the Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12), it has been indicated that the revised poverty lines recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission for 2004-05.

The revision of the number of beneficiaries based on poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, the foodgrains requirements and subsidy implications, etc. are under consideration of an Empowered Group of Ministers constituted to consider all issues concerning the proposed law on food security.

Import of foodgrains

†3398. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a short term solution to control rising prices, Government is considering to import food items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and in times when prices of food items are on an increase worldwide, how the import would check rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In view of the higher level of procurement of food grains (wheat, rice and coarse grains) during crop year 2007-08, 2008-09 and in the current procurement season crop year 2009-10 and considering present level of allocations made under Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes, there is no proposal to consider import of food grains (wheat, rice and coarse grains) for the Central Pool. However, the import of wheat and rice on private account at zero duty is permitted. In the case of sugar also there has been no import of sugar on Government account.

There is no import of pulses on government account. However, Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty. In order to augment domestic availability of pulses, Government encourages import of pulses under two schemes (i) Scheme for import of pulses of PSUs against reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and services charge of 1.2% of CIF value (ii) Distribution of imported pulses by State Governments through PDS, @1 kg per family per month at a subsidy of Rs. 10 per kg.

Outstanding cane price arrear

3399. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane arrear is required to be paid within 14 days of supply of sugarcane by the farmers;

(b) whether cane price arrears pertaining to sugar season 2007-08 and earlier are still pending;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the measures taken by the State Governments concerned to recover cane price arrears from defaulting sugar mills as per the provisions of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966; and

(d) the quantum of outstanding cane price arrears as on 31 December, 2009, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per provisions of the Sugarcane (control) Order, 1966, sugar mills are required to pay for cane purchased from sugarcane growers within 14 days from the date of delivery of sugarcane unless there is an agreement in writing to the contrary between the parties.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The measures taken by the sugar producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, to recover the cane price arrears from defaulting sugar mills as per the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(d) The quantum of the State-wise cane price arrears as on 31.12.2009 for the sugar seasons, 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 are earlier seasons are indicated in the Statement-II (See below). The cane price arrears have since considerably reduced.

Statement

Measures taken by the State Governments to recover cane price arrears from defaulting sugar mills as per the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966

Andhra Pradesh:— For the sugar season 2002 — an amount of Rs. 33.09 crore is pending against 12 sugar factories due to court case. Hence, no action could be taken to recover the same. For sugar season 2007-08 season, an amount of Rs. 40.00 lac is pending against Nizamabad Coop Sugar Ltd.

Bihar:— Two sugar factories are defaulters for previous sugarcane price dues *viz.*, Bagha and Motihari. Certificate cases have been filed to realize the dues against them.

Gujarat:— The Director of Sugar, Government of Gujarat has strictly instructed concerned co-operative sugar factories to pay cane arrears to the cane growers at the earliest.

Karnataka:— Recovery Certificate have been issued against four sugar mills in the State.

Maharashtra:— Revenue Recovery Certificate have been issued against the defaulting sugar factories. Revenue Recovery Certificates have been issued against 18 cooperative sugar factories.

Punjab:— There are no cane price arrears the State, in respect of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 sugar seasons.

Uttar Pradesh:— For the crushing season 2009-10 notices have been issued against the defaulter sugar mills. Recovery Certificate against the Gadaura, Hargaon, Ajra, Seohara, Malakpur, Modinagar, Gagalthery has been issued. Only one sugar mill in the private sector, Kamalapur sugar mill is defaulter. Recovery certificate have been issued against the mill in 2009. In respect of Sugar season 2007-08, Recovery certificate has been against Majhawali, Gopi and Kamalapur Sugar mills.

Statement

*State-wise and Sugar season-wise position of cane price
arrears as on 31.12.2009*

(Amount Rs. in lac)

Sl. No.	State	Cane price arrears for 2009-10 season	Cane price arrears for 2008-09 season	Cane price arrears for 2007-08 and earlier season	Total cane price arrears (3+4+5)
1.	Punjab	1591.50	0.00	0.00	1591.50
2.	Haryana	4170.92	0.00	0.00	4170.92
3.	Uttar Pradesh	93523.94	268.72	8627.92	102420.58
4.	Uttarakhand	3970.74	0.00	629.73	4600.47
5.	Madhya Pradesh	89.58	0.00	1061.67	1151.25
6.	Gujarat	14629.80	10.17	1197.61	15837.58
7.	Maharashtra	17544.37	36.12	2105.91	19686.40
8.	Bihar	5783.76	31.08	3935.54	9750.38
9.	Andhra Pradesh	21938.55	0.00	3495.46	25434.01
10.	Karnataka	53625.00	438.00	3318.00	57381.01
11.	Tamil Nadu	8517.29	342.79	215.94	9076.02
12.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	384.74	387.74
13.	Orissa	276.89	0.00	0.00	276.89
14.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Puducherry	277.18	0.00	0.00	277.18
16.	Goa	295.63	0.00	0.00	295.63
TOTAL :		226235.15	1126.88	24972.52	252334.55