

**Statement**

*List of States Where Implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 has started (As on 05.02.2014)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Month of implementation
1.	Haryana	September, 2013
2.	Rajasthan	October, 2013
3.	Delhi	October, 2013
4.	Himachal Pradesh	October, 2013
5.	Punjab	December, 2013
6.	Karnataka	January, 2014
7.	Chhattisgarh	January, 2014
8.	Uttarakhand	February, 2014
9.	Maharashtra	February, 2014
10.	Chandigarh	February, 2014

**Non-Payment to Sugarcane Farmers by Millers**

1795.DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the millers across the country owe around Rs. 3400 crore to farmers on account of sugarcane purchased last year, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to bail out the sector due to the crisis caused by the sugarcane arrears and huge unsold stock of domestically produced sugar and also to ensure beneficial price of sugarcane to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) As on 15.12.2013,

the millers across the country owe around Rs. 2456 crores to sugarcane farmers because of sugarcane purchased last year. The problem of cane price arrears arises when realization by sugar mills from sale of sugar is not enough to pay the cane prices to the farmers. Though the Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane on the recommendations of Commission on Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP), fixation of higher cane price by some of the States compounds the problem. Surplus production over domestic consumption in the last three sugar seasons and low exports due to subdued international sugar prices have led to building up of cane price arrears. A statement indicating the state-wise amount of outstanding sugarcane arrears pending against the sugar mills during last year 2012-13 as on 15th December, 2013, is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Central Government on 03.01.2014 has notified a scheme envisaging a financial package in the form of interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crores to sugar mills for clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane farmers. Interest burden estimated at Rs. 2750 crores over next five years would be borne by the Government through Sugar Development Fund.

***Statement***

*Details Showing Cane Price Arrears For 2012-13 Season As on 15.12.2013*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/	Cane Price Arrears 2012-13
1.	Rajasthan	5.65
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2177.28
3.	Uttarakhand	78.53
4.	Gujarat	0.17
5.	Bihar	34.62
6.	Andhra Pradesh	24.97
7.	Karnataka	17.32

Sl. No.	Name of the State/	Cane Price Arrears 2012-13
8.	Tamil Nadu	84.35
9.	Odisha	26.72
10.	West Bengal	0.05
11.	Pondicherry	2.50
12.	Goa	3.75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2455.91</b>

#### **Plugging of Loopholes in PDS**

1796. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is plugging the loopholes in Public Distribution System (PDS), if so the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The strengthening and streamlining of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. In order to maintain supplies and secure availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955), the Central Government has notified Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 on 31.08.2001.

A Nine Point Action Plan for curbing the leakages / diversion of foodgrains under TPDS was also evolved in July, 2006 in consultation with the State / UT Governments for implementation by States / UTs.

Further, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of