

**Increase in import duty on sugar**

†437. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of the country on sugar mills and the arrangement made for their payments;
- (b) the facilities provided to sugar mills by the Central Government as of now;
- (c) whether the duty on import of sugar has been increased from 15 per cent to 40 per cent and its impact on sale price of sugar in market; and
- (d) whether increasing the import duty on sugar is in the interest of sugar mills or consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) As on 30.06.2014, the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of the country on sugar mills is Rs. 11,524 crores. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable. The powers for enforcing this provision are delegated and vested with the State Governments/UT Administrations who have necessary field formations.

(b) In order to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane farmers, the Central Government on 03.01.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) envisaging interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crores by bank as additional working capital to sugar mills. Further, the Central Government on 28.02.2014 has notified another scheme allowing incentives for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export market. The incentive available under the Scheme shall be utilized by the sugar mills for making payment to the farmers.

- (c) No Sir, the current rate of import duty on sugar is 15%.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Wastage of foodgrains**

438. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains in Government stock wasted during last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.