

**Incentives to cane farmers and sugar industry**

1126. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the steep rise in the sugar prices and the crisis being faced by cane farmers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to protect cane farmers and sugar industry and curtail the sugar prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the incentives and sops being offered to cane farmers and industry as a whole to protect them and curtail the price-rise of sugar in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) The sugar prices are currently stable in the domestic market. The surplus production during the last three sugar seasons coupled with global surpluses have resulted in poor realization on sale of sugar by the sugar mills leading to build up of cane price arrears of the farmers.

(b) and (c) The Central Government takes appropriate decisions at appropriate time to protect the interests of all stake holders viz. sugarcane farmers, sugar industry and consumers.

(d) In order to facilitate clearance of sugarcane dues 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 banks as additional working capital to sugar mills of the Country. Further, the Central Government on 28.02.2014 has notified another scheme allowing incentive 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. These steps are likely to keep the sugar prices stable in the domestic market in the long run.

**Payment of LSPEF claims to CONFED**

†1127. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government pays the differential amount to CONFED due to rise in the prices of sugar;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.