

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether a proposal of payment of Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims to CONFED regarding levy sugar margin from 1999-2000 to 2010-11 has been received from the Government of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard along with the steps proposed to be taken?

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

(a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) pays the levy sugar price differential claims on account of price rise to sugar mills directly.

(b) and (c) The Government has revised the levy sugar margins from 1999-2000 to 2010-11 in respect of Government of Rajasthan in the year 2013. The CONFED is filing LSPEF claims to FCI for payment directly. The FCI has informed that CONFED has not submitted bills for the years 1999-2000 to 2006-07 on revised margin rates. However, they have submitted the bills for the years 2007-08 to 2010-11 to FCI on 26.05.2014. The deficiencies in the bills have been intimated to CONFED by FCI *vide* letter dated 10.06.2014. The CONFED has so far not submitted clarifications to FCI.

Strengthening of foodgrains storage system

†1128. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tonnes of foodgrains get rotten every year for want of proper storage facilities;

(b) if so, the necessary steps Government is going to take in this regard; and

(c) the details of the policy for strengthening foodgrains storage system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) No, Sir, foodgrains have not been damaged due to the lack of storage facilities.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) To strengthen availability of covered storage capacities, the following steps are being taken:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.