

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar mills owed arrears to the tune of Rs. 7000 crore to cane farmers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite various incentives given to sugar mills, these arrears are not cleared by them; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to pressurize the State Government to see that the arrears are cleared immediately?

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

(a) As on 15.07.2014, the dues of the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh for the current sugar season 2013-14 are ₹ 6737 crores.

(b) The cane price dues mainly pertain to supply of sugarcane in the current season and are mainly on account of low realization from sale of sugar. However, the payment of cane dues to the farmers is an ongoing process and the position is changing continuously.

(c) 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. The Central Government has from time to time advised the State Governments/UTs to ensure timely payment of cane dues to the farmers and to take action against the defaulting sugar mills.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that they have issued Recovery Certificates including the interest amount against 52 defaulter sugar mills and lodged 60 FIRs against the 43 sugar mills for the crushing season 2013-14.

Implementation of NFSA

1902. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) deemed to have come into force on 5 July, 2013; and

(b) the present status of implementation of the Act in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (d) Yes Sir, the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. It *inter alia* provides for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

So far, allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/UTs has started under the Act based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries reported by them. Out of these, in 6 States, namely Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan, complete identification as per coverage under the Act has been reported and in the remaining 5 States/UTs, namely Bihar, NCT of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh, identification is partial. States/UT of Uttarakhand, Assam and Lakshadweep have also reported completion of identification of beneficiaries. Remaining States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have been requested to complete the identification at the earliest and ensure implementation of the Act within next three months, after completing other preparatory measures.

Implementation of market intervention scheme

†1903. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the rise in the price of essential commodities like foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables including onion in the country during the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether export of tomato and onion led to their price rise; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government to implement effective market intervention scheme with regard to fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) There has been increase in the prices of some essential food items including vegetables in recent months. The price increase is on account of several factors such as rise in transportation costs, anticipation of deficit rains, supply constraints and artificial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.