

(c) the price including subsidy at which rice and wheat are proposed to be sold to exporters for export; and

(d) the total quantum of wheat and rice fixed for export by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The EXIM Policy allows export of foodgrains without any quantitative restrictions. In order to promote and facilitate exports from the Central pool stocks, only certain Post-delivery expenses to cover upgrading, fumigation, handling, etc. are allowed to the exporters. An Inter-Ministerial High Level Committee of the FCI makes suitable recommendations in this regard from time to time.

Strengthening PDS

106. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Common Minimum Programme of Government proposes to strengthen the Public Distribution System and extend it to the poorest blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the main proposals that have been worked out; and

(c) by what time these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen the PDS and to make wheat and rice available to the poorest of the poor families, it is proposed to expand the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) shortly by including another 50 lakh families who are at the risk of hunger.

Payments for sugarcane

†107. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugarcane crushed in sugar mills in various States of the country during 2003-04 together with the total prices thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether all payments have been made for sugarcane in various States; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the States in which maximum payments are due to the sugarcane growers during the said period together with the reasons therefor and the initiatives being taken by Government with regard to its payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) As per the Mid-Season Estimates furnished by the Sugar Producing States/U.Ts, 1418.96 lakh tonnes sugarcane is likely to be crushed during the current sugar season 2003-2004 (October-September).

A Statement showing the State-wise position of sugarcane price payable for cane purchased, cane price paid and balance cane price payable for the sugar season 2003-04 is enclosed.

(See below)

The accumulation of cane price arrears is attributable to factors such as higher production levels achieved during preceding three consecutive Sugar seasons, financial constraints, inadequate sales realizations and negative net worth etc.

The responsibility of ensuring timely payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane growers lies with the respective State Governments. The Central Government on its part, besides writing to the State Governments, from time to time, for speedy clearance of the cane price dues have taken the following steps:—

- (i) The levy obligation of sugar factories has been reduced to 10% w.e.f. 1st March, 2002 to enable the factories to sell more sugar under non-levy quota in the open market.
- (ii) A Buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar was created initially for a period of one year from 18.12.2002 involving an outgo of Rs. 412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund. In addition, about Rs. 374 crores would be available from the Banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs. 786 crores would become available for the payment of cane price dues. The Government has extended the maintenance of buffer stock for a further period of one year beyond 18.12.2003.

Statement

The State-wise position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 2003-04 season

(Figures in crore Rs.)

State/Zone	Total price payable for cane purchased during 2003-04	Total cane price paid	Balance cane price payable	Status as on
Punjab	404.49	328.93	75.56	30.4.2004
Haryana	556.10	479.61	76.49	30.4.2004
Rajasthan	10.98	5.51	5.47	30.4.2004
U.P.	4079.46	3840.02	239.44	30.6.2004
Uttaranchal	350.24	323.73	26.51	15.6.2004
M.P.	73.26	66.73	6.53	30.4.2004
Gujarat	769.81	736.99	32.82	31.5.2004
Maharashtra	2311.20	1152.18	1159.02	30.4.2004
Bihar	161.44	65.38	96.04	30.4.2004
Assam				N.A.
A.P.	763.88	699.18	64.70	31.5.2004
Karnataka	758.58	630.78	127.80	30.4.2004
Tamil Nadu	639.34	593.52	45.82	15.5.2004
Kerala				N.A.
Orissa	24.38	20.09	4.28	30.4.2004
West Bengal				N.A.
Pondicherry	17.13	10.32	6.81	30.4.2004
Goa	6.77	6.77	0	30.4.2004

Promoting sugar Industries

†108. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to promote sugar industry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.