

(c) The strategy for ensuring availability and moderating the prices of onion include imposition of stock limits by States/UTs, regulation of exports through fixation of Minimum Export Price (MEP) and regulation of price volatility through assistance under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation & Farmers Welfare.

Payment of arrears to sugarcane growers

†1524. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in view of the payments of arrears to the sugarcane growers by sugar mills and whether this would be fruitful in the interest of the sugarcane growers in the future;

(b) the name of products being manufactured by sugar mills by using sugarcane at present; and

(c) whether sugarcane is being used/being proposed to be used to produce ethanol which can be utilized by mixing it in fuel, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Government with a view to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of sugarcane farmers, has taken several steps to help the sugar industry resolve liquidity problems and expeditiously clear cane price dues. The measures taken by the Government are listed below:

- (i) Extending working capital loans with interest subvention to sugar mills to facilitate clearance of cane price dues of farmers under Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) and Soft Loan scheme.
- (ii) Incentive for exporting raw sugar in sugar seasons 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- (iii) Fixing remunerative prices for supplies of ethanol to OMCs for blending with petrol; waiver of excise duty on ethanol supplies to OMCs during 2015-16 and scaling up of blending targets from 5% to 10%.
- (iv) Enhanced import duty to 40% to discourage imports.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (v) The “Duty Free Import Authorization” scheme (DFIA), for sugar withdrawn.
- (vi) The period for discharging Export Obligations under the Advanced Authorization Scheme for sugar reduced to 6 months to prevent leakage into the domestic economy.
- (vii) Notified a scheme on 2.12.2015 to extend production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane and facilitate timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.

The above measures are likely to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to make timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.

(b) Sugar mills in the country are producing white and raw sugar from sugarcane. Besides, bagasse; molasses and press cake are also generated as primary by-products in the process of sugar production.

(c) The extant policy of the Government does not allow production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice. However, ethanol is being produced from molasses, a by-product during production of sugar from sugarcane, and is *inter alia* being used for blending with petrol under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) of the Government.

Hoarding of pulses

†1525. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many cases of hoarding of pulses have come to light in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders till date; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The States are the enforcement agencies for the Essential Commodities Act 1955 & the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of essential Commodities Act, 1980. Action taken by the State Governments/UTs against hoarders of essential commodities covered under the Orders of Stock limits, during 2015 (as on 07.12.2015) is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The details of the raids conducted by the States on dealers of pulses during 17.10.2015 till 07.12.2015 are given in the Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.