

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are being implemented in the country.

(b) As per information provided by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, during the year 2014-15, 3,06,712 cases have been filed in the Consumer Courts and 2,85,445 cases have been disposed of.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 14.1.2016 in Civil Appeal NO. 2740/2007 has directed the constitution of a Committee to look into the functioning of the Consumer Fora on aspects such as infrastructural requirements, vacancy position, need for additional benches, conditions of eligibility of Non-Judicial Members, administrative powers of Presidents of State Commissions and District Fora, service conditions, minimum staff required, and a separate cadre for staff. The Government has accordingly issued a notification on 16.2.2016 constituting the Committee.

Payment of outstanding dues of sugarcane growers

†404. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the steps being taken for making payment and providing fair rates of sugarcane for sugarcane crushing season 2015-16 and for the payments of outstanding dues to the sugarcane farmers and whether its outcome will prove beneficial in future in fulfilling the interests of sugarcane farmers;

(b) the details of the quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers, State-wise; and

(c) the names of products being manufactured from sugarcane in sugar mills at present, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Government fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation from the State Governments and other stake holders. The FRP, so fixed, is the bench mark price below which no sugar mill can purchase cane from cane growers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Clause 3(3) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of supply of sugarcane failing which interest @ 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable.

The Central Government has taken the following steps which are likely to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to clear outstanding dues of farmers and make timely payment of cane price dues to them:-

- (i) Notified a scheme on 2.12.2015 to extend performance based production subsidy @ ₹ 4.50 per quintal of cane crushed to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane.
- (ii) Fixed remunerative prices for supplies of ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for blending with petrol; waived excise duty on ethanol supplies to OMCs during 2015-16 and scaled up blending targets from 5% to 10%.

(b) The details of quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers state-wise are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) 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.

Statement

State-wise details of quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers

(₹ in crores)

(As on 15.02.2016)

Sl. No.	State	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14 and Earlier Seasons	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	465.51	0.80	0.00	466.31
2.	Haryana	451.86	10.84	0.00	462.70
3.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	7294.44	599.01	112.26	8005.71
5.	Uttarakhand	363.35	34.53	24.92	422.80
6.	Madhya Pradesh	177.86	0.00	13.39	191.25
7.	Gujarat	486.32	1.11	13.41	500.84
8.	Maharashtra	3134.04	249.78	80.96	3464.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Bihar	0.00	29.19	40.76	69.95
10.	Andhra Pradesh	331.50	38.91	0.00	370.41
11.	Telangana	0.00	11.91	0.00	11.91
12.	Karnataka	0.00	295.30	312.48	607.78
13.	Tamil Nadu	689.61	318.13	278.49	1286.23
14.	Odisha	28.76	0.58	2.94	32.28
15.	West Bengal	0.00	1.82	0.00	1.82
16.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	9.09	9.09
17.	Goa	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.76
18.	Chhattisgarh	44.01	0.00	0.00	44.01
TOTAL		13469.02	1591.91	888.7	15949.63

Effectiveness of consumer fora

405. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out about the effectiveness of Consumer Fora, if so, the main findings thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revisit the same?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had initiated a study through Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. The study revealed the following:

- (i) Involvement of lawyers in District Forum;
- (ii) Inadequate lab testing facility;
- (iii) Problem in execution of the orders of the District Forum;
- (iv) Because of small compensation, consumers lose interest in the case;
- (v) Lack of capacity of the members to adjudicate the case;
- (vi) Inadequate infrastructure/man-power

(b) The Government has constituted a Committee on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 2740/2007 which will look into the functioning of the Consumer Fora on aspects such as infrastructural requirements, vacancy position, need for additional benches, conditions of eligibility of Non-Judicial