

(c) whether Government provides any compensation to the affected for such delayed payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Cash transfer of food subsidy scheme is being implemented in the Union Territories (UTs) of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. There has been no complaint from these UTs about delay in release of cash subsidy by the Central Government.

Payment of dues to sugarcane growing farmers

†2806. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) the number of sugarcane growing farmers who have been paid their arrears with interest under the rules of Central Sugarcane Order in last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the non-payment of due amount to the sugarcane growing farmers by sugar mill owners in time year by year, arrears amount is increasing;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry in view of the tendency of non-payment of arrears of sugarcane growing farmers by sugar mill owners and the results thereof; and

(d) the details of arrears thereof, State- wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) 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 to enforce the provisions of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 with regard to payment of cane dues of farmers is mainly vested with the State Governments as they have necessary field formation for its implementation.

As per the information received from major sugar producing States, sugarcane growing farmers have been paid their arrears without interest except in the State of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh, where 54720 farmers have been paid their arrears with interest during the Sugar Season 2016-17.

(b) and (c) Sustained surplus production over domestic consumption has led to subdued sugar prices, which had stressed the liquidity position of the industry throughout the country leading to build up of cane price arrears. In order to improve the liquidity position of the sugar mills enabling them to clear the cane price arrears, Government has taken following measures:

- (i) Increased customs duty on import of sugar from 50% to 100%.
- (ii) Withdrawn customs duty on export of sugar.
- (iii) Allocated mill-wise Minimum Indicative Export Quotas (MIEQ) of 20 LMT of sugar during sugar season 2017-18.
- (iv) Allowed Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA) in respect of sugar.
- (v) Fixed minimum selling price of sugar at factory gate @ ₹29 per kg for sale in the domestic market.
- (vi) Imposed stock holding limits on sugar mills to maintain demand supply balance.
- (vii) Extended financial assistance to sugar mills @ ₹ 5.50 per quintal of cane crushed during 2017-18 sugar season to offset the cost of cane. Assistance amounting to ₹ 1540 Crore to be paid directly to the farmers on behalf of the mills under the scheme.
- (viii) Notified Scheme for creation and maintenance of buffer stock of 30 Lakh MT of sugar for one year w.e.f. 1.7.2018 for which carrying cost and storage & insurance charges of about ₹ 1175 Crore will be borne by the Government.
- (ix) Notified a scheme to augment and enhance ethanol production capacity by extending loans of about ₹ 4440 Crore on which interest subvention of ₹ 1332 Crore to be borne by the Government.

Besides, Central Government from time to time issues advisory to the state Governments for ensuring clearance of cane price arrears of farmers and to take action against defaulting mills and also reviews the position through meeting and video conferences.

As a result of these measures, the peak cane price arrears of ₹23,232 crore for 2017-18 Sugar Season has come down to ₹15354 Crore as on 08.08.2018. More than 99% cane dues for 2016-17 and previous Sugar Seasons have already been cleared.

(d) The State-wise and year-wise details of cane price arrears for 2017-2018, 2016-17, 2015-16 & earlier sugar seasons is given in Statement.

Statement

The State-wise details of cane price arrears for 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16 & earlier seasons

(Position as on 08.08.2018) (₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2017-18		2016-17		2015-16 & earlier	Total Arrears	
		On FRP basis	On SAP basis	On FRP basis	On SAP basis	Years including SAP	On FRP basis	On SAP basis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Bihar	504	504	6	6	39	549	549
2.	Haryana	0	447	0	0	0	0	447
3.	Punjab	0	738	0	0	0	0	738
4.	Uttarakhand	363	612	0	0	25	363	637
5.	Uttar Pradesh	4467	10983	0	59	121	4467	11163
6.	Andhra Pradesh	112	112	0	0	20	132	132
7.	Telangana	78	78	0	0	0	78	78
8.	Gujarat	588	588	17	17	18	623	623
9.	Maharashtra	593	593	3	3	232	828	828
10.	Karnataka	344	344	0	0	37	381	381
11.	Tamil Nadu	0	231	0	394	1134	0	1759
12.	Puducherry	0	0	10	10	11	21	21
13.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
14.	Odisha	7	7	2	2	3	12	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58	58	6	6	2	66	66
16.	Goa	58	58	0	0	0	58	58
17.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		7173	15354	44	497	1642	7579	17493

Procurement of wheat and rice

2807. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of operational storage facilities currently operating for crops in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State agencies procured only 71 million tonnes of wheat and rice in 2017-18 out of 210 million tonnes of production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether low procurement had to do with lower storage capacity; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase storage capacity in the country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) As on 30.06.2018, a total of 2090 godowns are available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) for storage of central pool stock.

(b) and (c) The total production and procurement of wheat and rice by FCI and State Agencies during 2017-18 are as given below:

(Figures in LMT)

	Production	Procurement			Total
		FCI	Private Players	State Government/ Agencies	
Wheat	985.12	36.09	-	272.15	308.24
Rice	1115.22*	5.13	1.57	377.64	384.35
TOTAL					692.54

*As per 3rd Advance estimates of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.