

1	2	3	4
18.	North-East	M/s Idea	M/s Idea
19.	Punjab	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
20.	Rajasthan	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	M/s Tata, M/s Telenor	M/s Tata, M/s Telenor
22.	Uttar Pradesh(West)	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
23.	West Bengal	M/s BSNL	M/s BSNL

Issuance of smart cards in lieu of printed ration cards

2791. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State Governments have issued smart cards in lieu of printed ration cards after linking the Aadhaar and mobile phone numbers of the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT- wise, and if not, whether any specific time-frame has been set for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No Sir. States/UTs have been asked for digitisation of ration cards and seeding of Aadhaar number in PDS beneficiaries' database. The digitisations of ration cards have been completed in all States/UTs and 84.36% of total 23.18 Crore ration cards under NFSA have been seeded with Aadhaar number at the national level.

Impact of increase in FRP for sugarcane

2792. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a 2.5 per cent increase in Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane, Government has calculated the rise in cost of production of sugar in rupees/metric tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in the FRP would result in a margin cut for the sugar mills and a cut in cane arrears due to surplus in domestic market in SY-2019; and

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has a mechanism to prevent an increase in cane arrears and a decline in the margins of the sugar mills, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The FRP of sugar cane for sugar season 2018-19 has been fixed at ₹ 275/ qtl. at 10% recovery. At 9.5% recovery, it works out to Rs 261.25/ qtl. which is higher than the FRP for current sugar season 2017-18 by about 2.45%. With this increment of FRP, the estimated rise in cost of production of sugar works out to be ₹ 660/metric tonne.

(c) and (d) Increase in FRP of sugarcane may increase the production cost of sugar. However, with a view to stabilize sugar price thereby improving the liquidity position of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers, the Government has taken the following measures:

- (i) Extended financial assistance @₹5.50/quintal of cane crushed to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane amounting to about ₹1540 crore;
- (ii) Created buffer stock of 30 LMT for which Government will reimburse carrying cost of ₹ 1175 crore towards maintenance of buffer stock;
- (iii) Fixed minimum selling price of sugar at ₹29/kg for sale at factory gate in domestic market, below which no sugar mill can sell sugar.

Besides, the Central Government has recently fixed remunerative prices of ethanol produced from C-heavy and B-heavy molasses @ of ₹ 43.46 per litre and ₹ 47.13 per litre respectively for ethanol season 2018-19.

Malpractices in restaurants, pubs and hotels

2793. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made service charges optional for the restaurants, pubs and hotels but restaurants are still charging it to the consumers;
- (b) if so, the details of the complaints received in this regard during the last one year, State-wise, along with the steps taken, if any, by Government to stop such malpractices in restaurants, pubs and hotels; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?