

(c) Government does not earmark any amount for procurement of paddy/rice through Private agencies. Depending on the quantity procured by the private agencies, the amount is paid by FCI at the rate fixed through tender.

Under the PPSS scheme, an amount of ₹200.00 crore has been earmarked for 2019-20.

Payment of dues to sugarcane-growing farmers

3097. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount the sugar mills owe to the cane-growing farmers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reason for not paying the dues to the sugarcane-growing farmers and the steps taken by the Ministry to resolve the issue;

(c) the measures taken to boost the liquidity position of sugar mills, especially in Punjab; and

(d) by when, the total dues to the sugarcane-growing farmers would be paid by the sugar mills of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) The State-wise details of cane price dues of sugarcane famers during current sugar season 2018-19 and last sugar season 2017-18, as on 16.07.2019 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Depressed sugar prices due to surplus sugar production, during the previous sugar season 2017-18 adversely affected the liquidity of the sugar mills resulting in accumulation of cane price arrears of the farmers.

With a view to improving the liquidity position of sugar mills in the country, including state of Punjab, and enabling them to clear cane price dues of farmers, the Government has took following measures in sugar seasons 2017-18 & 2018-19:

- (i) Fixing a Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar *w.e.f* 07.06.2018 at ₹29/kg for sale at factory gate in domestic market, below which no sugar mill can sell sugar. MSP has further been increased to ₹31/Kg. *w.e.f* 14th February, 2019.

- (ii) Extending Assistance to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane in sugar seasons 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- (iii) Extending assistance to sugar mills by reimbursing carrying cost towards maintenance of buffer stock of 30 LMT of sugar.
- (iv) Extending Assistance to sugar mills for defraying expenditure towards internal transport, freight, handling and other charges to facilitate export of sugar from the country in sugar season 2018-19.
- (v) Extending soft loans to sugar mills through banks for which Government would bear interest subvention @ 7% for one year to clear cane price arrears.

Under the schemes enumerated in para (ii) to (v) above, it has been provided that funds will be directly credited to farmer's accounts on behalf of the sugar mills against their cane price dues.

It has been informed by State Government of Punjab that they have also provided ₹215 crores assistance to co-operative sugar mills to clear the cane arrears of farmers for sugar season 2017-18. For the sugar season 2018-19, the State Government has provided ₹ 25/- per qtl. (₹52.75 crores) out of the State Agreed Price (SAP) on behalf of private sugar mills till 07-07-2019 to clear cane price arrears.

(d) Payment of cane price to sugarcane growing farmers by the sugar mills is a continuous process. However, as a result of various measures taken by the Government as enumerated in reply to Para (b) & (c) of the question, the cane dues of farmers for previous sugar season 2017-18 have been reduced to only ₹ 285 crores as on 16.07.2019.

Statement

Details Showing State-wise dues of sugarcane-growing farmers in the current sugar season and last sugar season (As on 16.07.2019)

(₹ in crores)				
Sl. No.	Name of State	2018-19	2017-18	Total
1.	Bihar	856	12	868
2.	Haryana	145	0	145
3.	Punjab	902	39	941

Sl. No.	Name of State	2018-19	2017-18	Total
4.	Uttarakhand	339	108	447
5.	Uttar Pradesh	9746	46	9792
6.	Andhra Pradesh	236	6	242
7.	Telangana	120	0	120
8.	Gujarat	896	1	897
9.	Maharashtra	1169	62	1231
10.	Karnataka	598	5	603
11.	Tamil Nadu	348	0	348
12.	Puducherry	0	0	0
13.	Chhattisgarh	100	2	102
14.	Odisha	75	0	75
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31	4	35
16.	Goa	4	0	4
ALL INDIA		15565	285	15850

Wastage of foodgrains

†3098. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ratio and quantity of production and wastage of food products in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to previous studies, the wastage of foodgrains is continuously increasing, if so, the reasons and details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to prevent the wastage of food products during the last five years, along with the details of achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) The State-wise details/on the quantity of production and procurement of rice and wheat during 2018-19 are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures rice and wheat in the range of 34-37% of the annual production. The remaining

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.