

country where more than 50 per cent population are engaged in these sectors for livelihood; and

(b) whether it is not an indicator to show that contribution of more than 50 per cent of people to the country's economy is decreasing and thus they were going into poverty continuously?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRINARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The country has witnessed relatively much faster rate of growth in sectors other than agriculture, resulting in a decline of the share of agriculture and allied sector in the economy. This is on account of structural changes due to a shift from a traditional agrarian economy to industry and service dominated one. This phenomenon is generally expected in the normal development process of developing economies including India.

(b) In order to have a comprehensive assessment of the situation of farmers in the country, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts 'Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households' from time to time. The first such Survey was conducted in rural parts of the country during NSS 59th round (January 2003- December 2003). Thereafter, a repeat survey was conducted during NSS 70th round (January 2013- December 2013). As per the Survey results, the average monthly income per agricultural household from various sources is estimated to have increased from ₹ 2115 in 2003 to ₹ 6426 in 2013.

Moreover, as per the poverty estimates of the erstwhile Planning Commission, the rural population living Below Poverty Line (BPL), including both farm and non-farm rural population, has come down from 42.0 percent in 2004-05 to 25.7 percent in 2011-12.

#### **Timely payment to sugarcane growing farmers**

†849. 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 details of the outstanding amount of sugarcane growing farmers due on sugar mills during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that year after year, sugarcane growing farmers are not being paid on time because of which the outstanding amount has been increasing; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government keeping in view the non-payment to sugarcane growing farmers by sugar mills on time and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) As per information received from respective States, the details of State-wise dues of sugarcane-growing farmers during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season, as on 24.06.2019 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Payment of cane price to sugarcane growing farmers by the sugar mills is a continuous process. However, on account of surplus sugar production, during the previous sugar seasons the sugar prices remained depressed which adversely affected the liquidity of the sugar mills resulting in accumulation of cane price arrears of the farmers.

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. 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 review the position through meetings and video conferences.

Further, with a view to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers, the Government has taken following measures in past one year:-

- (i) In order to prevent cash loss and to facilitate sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers in time, the Government has fixed 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 @ ₹ 5.50/quintal of cane crushed for sugar season 2017-18 to offset the cost of cane.
- (iii) Created buffer stock of 30 LMT for which Government is reimbursing carrying cost towards maintenance of buffer stock.
- (iv) Extending Assistance to sugar mills @ ₹ 13.88/quintal of cane crushed for sugar season 2018-19 to offset the cost of cane.

- (v) 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.
- (vi) Government has also notified new National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 under which sugarcane juice has been allowed for production of ethanol. Further, the Government has fixed remunerative price of ethanol produced from C-Heavy molasses and B-Heavy molasses/sugarcane juice separately for supply under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme during ethanol season 2018-19.
- (vii) Extending soft loans to sugar mills through banks for which Government would bear interest subvention @ 7% for one year to clear cane price arrears.

As a result of these measures, the cane dues of previous sugar season 2016-17 & 2017-18 have been reduced to only ₹ 452 crores & ₹ 303 crores respectively as on 24.06.2019.

***Statement***

*Details of State-wise dues of sugarcane farmers in the current sugar season and last three sugar seasons (As on 24.06.2019)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16 & earlier years	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bihar	923	26	1	38	988
2.	Haryana	293	0	0	0	293
3.	Punjab	925	39	0	0	964
4.	Uttarakhand	542	108	0	25	675
5.	Uttar Pradesh	10134	49	22	121	10326
6.	Andhra Pradesh	289	7	0	1	297
7.	Telangana	155	0	0	0	155
8.	Gujarat	907	1	17	18	943
9.	Maharashtra	1338	62	2	177	1579
10.	Karnataka	1704	5	0	33	1742
11.	Tamil Nadu	362	0	394	1135	1891
12.	Puducherry	0	0	10	11	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Chhattisgarh	106	2	0	0	108
14.	Odisha	75	0	0	3	78
15.	Madhya Pradesh	83	4	6	2	95
16.	Goa	4	0	0	0	4
	All India	17840	303	452	1564	20159

**Action plan for timely payment to sugarcane growing farmers**

†850. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the condition of sugarcane growing farmers of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country is miserable, as they are not being paid their dues on time;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action plan of Government for timely payment to the sugarcane growing farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Does not arise. Payment of cane price to sugarcane growing farmers by the sugar mills is a continuous process. In sugar season 2017-18, cane dues payable in respect of Uttar Pradesh and on all India basis was ₹ 33013 crores and ₹ 82730 crores respectively. As a result of various measures enumerated in reply to part (c) of the question, the cane dues of farmers on all India basis for previous sugar season 2017-18 have been reduced to only ₹ 303 crores as on 24.06.2019. In respect of Uttar Pradesh the cane price dues have been reduced to only ₹ 49 crores for sugar season 2017-18.

- (c) Due to surplus sugar production, during the previous sugar season and the current sugar season, the sugar prices remained depressed which adversely affected the liquidity of the sugar mills resulting in accumulation of cane price arrears of the farmers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.