

| 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.

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 sugar seasons 2017-18 and 2018-19.

- (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.

Distribution of ration

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

- (a) the number of ration card holders in the country in last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the quantum and types of grains provided to consumers per persons under Public Distribution system; and