

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dead stock/scrap is identified and assessed in stores, godowns, workshops, yards, open space, etc. and same is disposed off regularly. The details of disposal are as under:

Year	Disposal value in Indian Rupees
2014-15	₹3,221.19 Crores
2015-16	₹2,786.64 Crores
2016-17	₹2,699.46 Crores
2017-18	₹3,147.17 Crores
2018-19	₹4,197.84 Crores

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Timely payment to sugarcane growers**

3000. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount outstanding and total amount paid to sugarcane-growing farmers in Uttar Pradesh by State-owned and private sugar mills for purchasing of sugarcane in the last three years; and

(b) whether Government has made any comprehensive policy to ensure timely payment to sugarcane growing farmers by the State-owned and private sugar mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) As per information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, total amount of cane dues outstanding and paid to sugarcane-growing farmers in Uttar Pradesh by State-owned, cooperative and private sugar mills for purchasing of sugarcane in the last three sugar seasons are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Payment of cane price to sugarcane growing farmers by the sugar mills is a continuous process. However, on account of surplus sugar production during sugar seasons 2017-18 and 2018-19 the sugar prices remained depressed which adversely affected the liquidity of the sugar mills resulting in accumulation of cane price arrears of the farmers.

With a view to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills of the country including State of Uttar Pradesh, enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers, the Government took following measures, in sugar seasons 2017-18 and 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 which Government would bear interest subvention @ 7% for one year to clear cane price arrears.
- (vi) Allowed production of ethanol from B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice; and fixed remunerative price of ethanol for supply to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) An ethanol season 2018-19.
- (vii) Extending assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity.

Further, in view of huge carry over-stock and estimation of surplus production than the estimated consumption in the country in current sugar season 2019-20, the Government has taken following measures to improve liquidity of sugar mills enabling them to clear cane dues of farmers for sugar season 2019-2020:-

- (i) Created buffer stock of 40 LMT of sugar for a period of one year from 01.8.2019 to 31.7.2020 for which Government would be reimbursing carrying cost of about ₹1674 crore towards maintenance of buffer stock.
- (ii) Extending assistance to sugar mills to facilitate export of 60 LMT of sugar from the country in sugar season 2019-20, for which an estimated expenditure of ₹ 6268 crore would be borne by the Government.

- (iii) The Government has also allowed production of ethanol from sugar and sugar syrup; and has fixed the remunerative ex-mill price of ethanol derived from C-heavy molasses, B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice/ sugar/ sugar syrup.

Further, Government of Uttar Pradesh has provided financial assistance of ₹ 483.93 crore to sugar mills in sugar season 2017-18 for payment of their cane dues. In sugar season 2018-19 also, soft loan of ₹ 2864 crore was extended to sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh under soft loan scheme announced by State Government for clearance of cane dues of farmers.

**Statement**

*Sugarcane price payment by state-owned, cooperative and private sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and arrears during last three sugar seasons i.e. 2018-19, 2017-18 and 2016-17 on State Advised Price (SAP) basis, (as on 09.12.2019)*

(₹ in crores)

<b>Sugar Season 2018-19</b>				
Sector	Payable	Paid	Arrear	% of cane dues paid
1	2	3	4	5
Corporation/State-Owned	181.50	159.81	21.69	88.05
Cooperative	2892.54	2588.04	304.50	89.47
Private	29974.00	27362.77	2611.23	91.29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33048.04</b>	<b>30110.62</b>	<b>2937.42</b>	<b>91.11</b>
<b>Sugar Season 2017-18</b>				
Corporation/State-Owned	148.23	148.23	0.00	100.00
Cooperative	3060.07	3060.07	0.00	100.00
Private	32255.41	32214.87	40.54	99.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35463.71</b>	<b>35423.17</b>	<b>40.54</b>	<b>99.89</b>
<b>Sugar Season 2016-17</b>				
Corporation/State-Owned	132.37	132.37	0.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
Cooperative	2434.75	2434.75	0.00	100.00
Private	22819.38	22797.09	22.29	99.90
TOTAL	25386.5	25364.21	22.29	99.91

#### **Appointments made against employees who opted for VRS**

‡3001. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise details of the appointment made from the families of employees in lieu of their retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Departments of the Ministry during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that relaxations were given against many rules or the rules were changed for such appointments; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that irregularities have been found by CAG in the investigation of such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A total 15,337 wards of Railway employees belonging to certain specified safety categories who had sought Voluntary Retirement under the Liberalised Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS) Scheme have been given appointment on Indian Railways during the last five years. Zone-wise break-up of appointments is given in Statement (*See below*).

In the year 2004, a Safety Related Retirement Scheme was introduced in Indian Railways covering two safety categories viz., Drivers (excluding shunters) and Gangmen whose working has a critical bearing on safety of train operations and track maintenance. The scheme was framed on the consideration that with advancing age, the physical fitness and reflexes of staff of these categories deteriorate, thereby causing a safety hazard. The Scheme was re-named as Liberalised Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS) in the year 2010 and extended to some more specified safety categories. The Scheme stands terminated w.e.f. 27.10.2017 pursuant to Supreme Court's orders in a case on the issue.

The observations made by CAG *vide* para 2.2 of CAG's Report No. 24, have been replied. Action Taken Note in this regard has been sent to Min. of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Monitoring Cell) on 25.04.2018.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.