

States/UTs in each of the three months of April, May and June 2020. Further, under the PMGKAY Phase-II (July to November 2020) the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs was made by the Department on 8th July 2020 for monthly/ bi-monthly or in one go distribution to all NFSA beneficiaries under the scheme.

All operational responsibilities including distribution of foodgrains under the scheme lies with the State/UT Governments. So far, under the PMGKAY Phase-II, as reported by States/UTs, about 90% and 85% foodgrains have been distributed for the months of July and August 2020, whereas for the month of September nearly 20% foodgrains have been distributed.

Payment of arrears of sugarcane growers in Bihar

†1508. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to restart the Samastipur Sugar Mill and Riga Sugar Mill at Sitamarhi in the State of Bihar;
- (b) whether Government has any information regarding the arrears payable to farmers by these Sugar Mills; and
- (c) whether Government would provide funds to the management of Sugar Mills for the payment of arrears so that farmers could be paid arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) As per the information received from Government of Bihar, Riga Sugar Mill at Sitamarhi has operated in current sugar season 2019-20 and it is likely to operate in the ensuing sugar season 2020-21 also. For revival of closed Government sugar mills, either in the form of a sugar mill or other industry, bidding process has been organised by State Government of Bihar to put them on long term lease to interested investors. In fourth bidding, M/s Winsome International Ltd. has been selected for developing Samastipur unit as Jute and Food Processing unit.

(b) As on 07.09.2020, Riga Sugar Mill at Sitamarhi has cane price arrears of ₹ 68.31 crore payable to cane growers for sugar seasons 2018-19 and 2019-20. No cane price arrears are pending against Samastipur sugar mill.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Payment of cane price to sugarcane 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. With a view to improve liquidity of sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers, the Central government has taken various measures in past three sugar seasons viz. extended assistance to sugar mills to facilitate export of sugar; extended assistance to mills for maintaining buffer stocks; extended soft loans to sugar mills through banks to clear cane price dues; fixed Minimum Selling Price of Sugar etc. Further, Government of Bihar has provided ₹ 12.50/quintal on purchase of sugarcane in form of subsidy to sugar mills to clear cane price dues for the sugar season 2018-19.

**Distribution of foodgrains and gram under PMGKAY and Atmanirbhar
Bharat Package**

1509. SHRI SAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and gram mobilized for distribution under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana(PMGKAY) and the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package since March 2020, month-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries covered along with the quantum of foodgrains and gram actually distributed under the aforementioned Schemes since March 2020, month-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) The details of allocation of foodgrains(rice and wheat) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana(PMGKAY) are given in the Statement-I (a) (*See* below).

The allocation details of gram/pulses under PMGKAY are given in Statement-I(b) and Statement-I(c) (*See* below).

The details of distribution of foodgrains under PMGKAY alongwith no. of beneficiaries covered are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

The details of foodgrains and grams allocated and distributed under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (ANBP) alongwith no. of beneficiaries covered are given in Statement-III.