

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1464
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/07/2022

DECREASE IN SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

1464 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand for products like sugar, molasses, biodiesel etc., and the major source for these products is sugarcane, and whether its cultivation has decreased since last five years;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase sugarcane production;
- (c) whether Government is considering to incentivize the sugarcane producing farmers;
- (d) if so, by when these schemes will be introduced; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) There is a growing demand for the products like sugar, molasses and bio-diesel for which the major source is sugarcane. Also, the area under cultivation of sugarcane has increased during last five years i.e. from 47.37 lakh hectares in 2017-18 to 50.98 lakh hectares in 2021-22 (as per 3rd advance estimates).
- (b) to (e) To enhance production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, the Government has been implementing Sugarcane Development Programme under National Food Security Mission - Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC) in 13 major sugarcane growing states of the country viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh from 2014-15. Under this scheme thrust has been given on transfer of technology through frontline demonstrations and training in order to extend

benefits to the farmers. The components under NFSM-CC Sugarcane include demonstration on inter-cropping and single bud chip technology with sugarcane, assistance for breeder seed production, production / supply of tissue culture plantlets/seedlings, distribution of plant protection chemicals and bio-agents, etc.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established two research Institutes on sugarcane viz., ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow and ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI), Coimbatore. The ICAR has also established All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sugarcane in order to enhance sugarcane and sugar productivity in different sugarcane growing zones. There are 22 regular and 14 voluntary centres under AICRP on Sugarcane. The research work conducted by institutes includes genetic improvement of sugarcane for higher cane and sugar productivity under biotic and abiotic stresses, crop management for high cane productivity under different agro-climatic zones, resource management in sugarcane based cropping system, integrated pests and disease management, development of appropriate farm machinery for mechanization of sugarcane cultivation, development of suitable post-harvest technology, sugar beet improvement, its seed production and crop management and transfer of technology.

The Government also fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane, well in advance of sowing season, to encourage farmers for sugarcane sowing. The FRP is a minimum benchmark price below which sugar mills cannot purchase cane from the cane growers. The FRP for 2021-22 has been increased and fixed at Rs. 290/- per quintal as compared to Rs. 285/- per quintal for 2020-21.
