

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1260
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH MARCH, 2013

IMPORT OF RAW SUGAR

1260. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for import of raw sugar during the ensuing financial year along with the names of the countries from where it is proposed to be imported;**
- (b) whether a huge quantum of raw sugar imported from foreign countries is lying at various ports of the country including Kandla port;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the short-term policy proposed by the Government to reduce the prices of sugar; and**
- (d) the steps being proposed by the Government to encourage sugarcane and sugar production in the country to control the prices of sugar in the long run?**

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The Central Government does not fix any target for import of raw sugar. Merchant importers/sugar mills are free to import sugar including raw sugar under Open General License (OGL) at the prevailing rate of custom duty (which is 10% since 13.07.2012) from any country as per their commercial prudence.

(b) & (C) : No raw sugar imported from foreign countries is lying at major ports except 200 MTs inside Chennai Port Trust and 4980 MTs outside the Kandla Port Trust for transporting to refineries for processing.

The prices of sugar are currently stable in the domestic market

(d): The steps taken by the Central Government to encourage production of sugarcane and sugar in the country is given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1260 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.03.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA

The Central Government has taken the following steps to increase the production of sugarcane and sugar in the country :-

(a) The Central Government has changed the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) with Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane payable by the sugar mills to make it beneficial to the farmers. The Government announced FRP for the ensuing sugar season 2013-14 at Rs.210/- per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs.2.21 per quintal for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level.

(b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Area (SUBACS) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, Apart from this, under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), the State Government have been given flexibility to choose their priorities for formulation of the crop development project including sugarcane. All the above programs are focused on planting material, transfer of technology, improving productivity, knowledge upgradation and mechanization etc.

(c) The Central Government provides Concessional loans to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, utilization of by-products viz. baggasse for co-generation of power and molasses for production of ethanol, upgradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.
