

Sugar mills asked to start cane crushing with immediate effect

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LUCKNOW: Chief secretary Alok Ranjan on Tuesday directed sugar mill owners to start cane-crushing process immediately keeping in view the interests of sugarcane farmers and sugar mills.

He said a comprehensive action-plan should be made to augment sugarcane productivity and recovery in the state, so that farmers and sugar mills could be benefited. He said sugarcane farmers and sugar mills complement each other, so uplift of farmers would naturally lead to good times for sugar mills also. He said the future of sugar mills depended on sugarcane and, hence, keeping in view the interests of sugarcane farmers and sugar mills, sugarcane price would be fixed soon. "Sugar mill owners will have to ensure timely payment to sugarcane farmers", he said. He said that at the time of fixing sugarcane price, it would be considered that sugar mill owners did not incur losses but exploitation of farmers would also not be allowed. Technical audit of the loss in recovery in sugar mills would be seriously considered.

Ranjan was presiding over a meeting regarding the state advi-

sory sugarcane price fixation for the 2014-15 season here on Tuesday. He said farmers' interests were paramount but impediments in operation of sugar mills should also be removed on priority. He asked for serious consideration of farmers' demand to directly get the subsidy given through sugar mill owners.