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With all demands of sugar factories agreed to, they can now pay growers fair & remunerative price: Fadnavis

CM gives sweet news to cane farmers

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Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said as the Centre has agreed to all the demands for providing relief to sugarcane farmers in Maharashtra, it will be possible for sugar factories to give the cane growers fair and remunerative price (FRP).

What's the CM's appeal?

Speaking at the anniversary function of Vinayak Mete's Shiv Sangram, Fadnavis said there would be no need for farmers' organisations to resort to agitations, leading to violence.

He added that he had led an all-party delegation to meet union finance minister Arun Jaitley and food and civil supplies minister Ramvilas Paswan, and made a presentation before the two.

What are the demands?

Fadnavis told media persons that Centre has agreed in principle to all the demands, including that of providing excise loan to sugar factories for the next two years, removing ban on export of raw sugar and providing subsidy for the same, and creating five million metric tonnes of sugar buffer stock.

The union commerce minister too has agreed for the same and in the next three-four days the union government will release the orders, he added.

Shetkari Sanghatana chief slams Sharad Pawar

Retaliating to criticism by NCP president Sharad Pawar, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana state unit president Sadabhau Khot on Saturday said it was easy to repair the Sugar Complex by replacing the broken glass but how can the former minister compensate for ruining the entire cooperative sector and selling off cooperative sugar factories to his near and dear ones. Pawar had expressed concern over the violence during the farmers' agitation at Sugar Complex in Pune.

Who were part of the delegation?

The all-party delegation, led by Fadnavis, included BJP state unit president and union minister of state Raosaheb Danve, leader of opposition in the state assembly Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, NCP leader Ajit Pawar, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana president and Lok Sabha MP Raju Shetty, cooperation minister Chandrakant Patil and president of the state cooperative sugar factories federation Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil.

When are the orders likely to be issued?

Commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who spoke to Fadnavis, agreed to issue the necessary orders after the proposal from the food and civil supplies ministry is sent to her.

How will sugar factories, farmers gain?

State president of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana Sadabhau Khot said the sugar factories will get additional money as purchase tax has been waived and an extended deadline for excise loan has been agreed to. He added that the state government will be issuing orders to sell molasses outside Maharashtra, providing additional money for the sugar factories so that they can give cane farmers FRP.