

'No duty-free import of raw sugar'

New Delhi: India, the world's top sugar consumer, will refrain from scrapping a 10% duty on import of the raw variety as supplies are enough to meet local demand in the 2012-2013 season, food minister K.V. Thomas said.

"We don't need imports as supplies are comfortable at present," Thomas said in New Delhi on Tuesday.

"Sugar output in the South Asian nation, the world's second- biggest producer, may total between 23.5 million tonne (mt) to 25 mt in the year starting 1 October compared with 26.2 mt this season," Thomas said. Inventories may total 6 mt on 1 October, he added.

BLOOMBERG