

# Sugar industry hopes for a further hike in export quota

**Our Bureau**

Pune

The sugar industry is hopeful that the government will allow export of additional 30 lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar, said Sonjoy Mohanty, Director-General, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA). This will ensure steady domestic prices, enable timely payments to cane farmers and lower inventory levels, he added.

Based on initial estimates of sugarcane production, the Centre has allowed 60 lt of sugar exports during 2022-23 sugar season. The shipments will have to be done by May 31.

He said that the permission to sugar mills to exchange their export quota with do-



mestic quota of any other mills within 60 days from date of issuance of the order will ensure liquidation of surplus stock.

## **FARMERS' DUES**

This will also allow mills to generate revenue thereby ensuring timely payment to farmers for cane.

In ISMA's statement issued on October 17, the industry body had requested the government to allow export of 90

lt, considering the country's expected total sugar stocks.

The Centre has prioritised availability of about 275 lt sugar for domestic consumption, about 50 lt for diversion to ethanol production, which would leave a balance of about 60 lt as on September 30, 2023.

The remaining quantity of sugar produced by sugar mills in the country will be allowed for export. Since at the beginning of sugar season 2022-23, initial estimates of sugarcane production are available, it has been decided to allow the export of 60 lt sugar. The sugarcane production will be reviewed periodically and based on the latest available estimates, quantity of sugar exports to be allowed could be reconsidered.