

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH AUGUST, 2013

AVAILABILITY OF CANE FOR SUGAR PRODUCTION

1171. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

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

- (a) whether drought and diversion of cane as fodder have reduced cane availability for sugar production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken so far?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PRCIF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Cane Commissioners of Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported reduction in sugarcane availability for sugar production during 2012-13 sugar season due to drought and diversion of cane as fodder in their States. The Cane Commissioner of Tamil Nadu has also reported reduction in the sugarcane availability for sugar production due to the drought condition. As per 4th Advance estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, released in July, 2013, the production of sugarcane is estimated at 3389.63 lac tons for 2012-13 sugar season as against 3610.37 lac tons of sugarcane production during the last sugar season 2011-12.

(c): The Cane commissioner, Government of Maharashtra has informed that in order to improve the productivity of sugarcane, they are encouraging the sugar mills to promote drip irrigation system for sugarcane crop through the farmers and to bring 100% area under drip irrigation during next 3-4 years. The Cane Commissioner, Government of Karnataka has reported that it is extending 75% subsidy to adopt drip irrigation in sugarcane. Further, the State Agriculture Universities and Institutes are disseminating the available technologies to improve the cane under water scarcity conditions. In the State of Tamil Nadu, drought management practices, drip irrigation and Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative are being practiced as corrective measures. Further, the Central Government provides concessional loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed varieties, ratoon management etc.