

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1158
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH AUGUST, 2013

SUGAR PRODUCTION

1158. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

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

- (a) the estimated opening balance of sugar for 2013-14 season as on 31 July, 2013;
- (b) the estimated sugar production for 2013-14 sugar season;
- (c) whether there would be any shortage of sugar during 2013-14 season as compared to domestic requirement of about 230 lakh tonnes; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for still allowing sugar import at cheaper import duty of 10 per cent and not increasing to 30 per cent or 40 per cent as in the case of other commodities?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)**

(a): As per the latest online reports received from the sugar mills in the country, the closing balance of white sugar as on 31.07.2013 is provisionally estimated at about 129 lakh tonnes during 2012-13 sugar season (October-September).

(b): The production of sugar depends upon sugarcane production and its availability to the sugar mills for crushing. First advance estimates of production for the year 2013-14 for kharif crops including sugarcane are yet to be released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. However, as per the reports received from the State Governments concerned and also the sugar industry, likely production of sugar in the country will be sufficient to meet the domestic requirement.

(c): No, Sir. With the sufficient carryover stocks and likely sugar production during 2013-14 sugar season, there would not be any shortage of sugar to meet the domestic requirement.

(d): The Government has considered the request of sugar industry and increased the customs duty on import of sugar from 10 to 15 percent with effect from 08.07.2013 to discourage imports.
