

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND  
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AT THE 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN SUGAR MILLS  
ASSOCIATION (ISMA)**

**21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2011 AT NEW DELHI**

Shri Narendra Murkumbhi, President, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), Shri Gautam Goel, Vice-President, ISMA, Shri Abinash Verma, Director General, ISMA, senior Government officials, members of Indian Sugar Mills Association, my friends from the media, ladies and gentlemen! It gives me immense pleasure to be amongst you on this august occasion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of the ISMA to share our views with one another on an important segment of our economy, the sugar industry.

2. The mandate given to us is for fulfillment of promises given to the people by the Government - for inclusive growth and equitable development. The faith reposed in us has to be respected and the commitments fulfilled. Our policy decisions, therefore, must reflect a real concern on the part of the Government for providing a future to every citizen of the country that is bright and prosperous.

3. What ails sugar industry, what has been done to promote its cause, what needs to be done to improve upon it and, how far can we go in furthering benefits that can be reaped through understanding our strengths and compulsions? - all these points need deliberation. I was carefully listening to the concerns expressed by the President, ISMA in his Presidential Address. The reaction to the concerns expressed can only come through the prism of a wider canvass for an equitable development of the nation. On the concerns over cyclicity in the sugar sector, one could not agree more; there is a need to tackle this phenomenon to arrive at a long-term solution. I would ask the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs to look into this sympathetically for the importance that it deserves. I would welcome suggestions from the industry and farmer-bodies on how to cope with it. The issue of decontrol or deregulation of the sugar industry, as you are aware, has been discussed at the highest levels. Since this involves a large number of stake holders - from the sugarcane farmers, the sugar mills, the State Governments to the consumers, a

