

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 516
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

SHIFTING FROM SUGERCANE CULTIVATION TO CASH CROP

516. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sugarcane growers are shifting from cultivation of sugarcane to other cash crops if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to encourage the farmers for cultivation of sugarcane if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the other welfare measures taken by Government for the welfare of sugarcane farmers during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The cultivation of crops including sugarcane depends on weather conditions, irrigation facilities, soil conditions, inter-crop profitability, expectation of better remuneration from other competing crops, etc. However, the area under sugarcane has increased from 48.51 lakh ha during 2020-21 to 53.69 lakh ha during 2024-25 (1st Advance Estimates).

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing sugarcane development programme under National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in 13 major sugarcane growing states from 2014-15 to enhance production and productivity of sugarcane. Besides, states can support sugarcane development programme under Pradhan Mantri- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC).

The Government fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for every sugar season to encourage farmers for cultivation of sugarcane. The FRP so fixed by the Government is the bench mark remunerative price below which no sugar mill can purchase sugarcane from the sugarcane growers. The FRP of sugarcane has been increased from Rs. 285/quintal during sugar season 2020-21 to Rs. 340/quintal during sugar season 2024-25.
