

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2624
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024

DUES OF SUGARCANE FARMERS

2624 SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:
SHRI MATHESWARAN V S:

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

- (a) the payment overdue of sugarcane farmers or the total dues owed to farmers by sugar mills during each of the last ten years including the current year, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the sugar mills are not paying the dues of sugarcane farmers year-by-year and as a result, the outstanding amount is continuously increasing;
- (c) the reasons for increasing arrears and unprecedented delay in payment to sugarcane farmers;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce stringent law against the sugar mill which doesn't pay the farmers dues on time and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/to be taken by the Government so as to ensure the payment of dues by sugar mills to the sugarcane farmers on time along with the outcome thereof?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): As per information received from State Governments, total overdues of sugarcane farmers by sugar mills during the last 10 years including current year, year-wise and state-wise including Tamil Nadu is at **Annexure I**.

(b) & (c): Payment of cane dues to farmers is a continuous process and cane payment by the sugar mills to the farmers are being made on regular basis resulting in reduction of cane dues. Details of cane price payment made during last 3 sugar seasons are at **Annexure II**.

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(d): The powers have been delegated and vested with the State Governments/UTs for monitoring the cane price payment position of sugar factories on periodical basis and in case of delay in payments; suitable action is taken by them.

(e): With a view to facilitate payments of outstanding dues to the sugarcane farmers, the Central Government has taken various steps in the form of policy interventions from time to time as and when required, which are as under:

- i) Central Government fixes Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane having regard to the factors mentioned in Clause 3(1) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- ii) Minimum Selling Price of sugar was fixed to prevent fall in ex-mill prices of sugar & accumulation of cane arrears (initially at ₹ 29/ kg w.e.f 07-06-2018; revised to ₹ 31/kg w.e.f. 14-02-2019).
- iii) Financial assistance of more than ₹ 18,000 crore extended to mills resulting in clearance of farmers' dues during last 10 years.
- iv) Diversion of surplus sugar to production of ethanol led to improved financial conditions of sugar mills. As a result, they are able to clear cane dues early.

As a result of these measures, significant reduction has been seen in cane price arrears. About 99.9% of cane dues up to sugar seasons (Oct – Sept) 2021-22 have been cleared. For the previous sugar season 2022-23, more than 99.6% cane dues have been cleared and in the current Sugar Season 2023-24, about 95.3 % cane dues are cleared as on 31.07.2024.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2624 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA

Status as on 31.07.2024 (Figures in Cr. Rs.)						
Statement showing total overdue of sugarcane farmers by sugar mills during the last 10 years including the current year, year-wise and state-wise						
State	2018-19 & earlier	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Uttar Pradesh	115	0	0	37	213	3440
Maharashtra	72	0	56	32	25	188
Karnataka	4	0	0	0	0	65
Gujarat	54	0	0	0	0	1090
Tamil Nadu	51	0	0	0	0	74
Bihar	68	39	4	0	0	66
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	26
Punjab	0	0	0	28	0	117
Madhya Pradesh	6	0	0	0	0	18
Uttarakhand	131	0	0	0	0	17
Andhra Pradesh	22	36	0	0	0	18
Telangana	0	0	0	0	0	4
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	65
Odisha	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total	526	75	60	97	238	5188

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2624 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2024 IN THE LOK SABHA

Status as on 31.07.2024 (Figures in Cr. Rs.)									
Statement showing status of Cane Price Payment									
State	SS 2021-22			SS 2022-23			SS 2023-24		
	Payable	Paid	Arrear	Payable	Paid	Arrear	Payable	Paid	Arrear
Uttar Pradesh	35201	35164	37	38051	37838	213	35910	32470	3440
Maharashtra	43313	43281	32	35532	35507	25	36758	36570	188
Karnataka	20632	20632	0	19748	19748	0	19890	19825	65
Gujarat	3891	3891	0	3703	3703	0	3462	2372	1090
Tamil Nadu	3543	3543	0	4562	4562	0	3033	2959	74
Bihar	1578	1578	0	2189	2189	0	2371	2305	66
Haryana	2727	2727	0	2862	2862	0	2410	2384	26
Punjab	2308	2280	28	2573	2573	0	2474	2357	117
Madhya Pradesh	1839	1839	0	1771	1771	0	2140	2122	18
Uttarakhand	1531	1531	0	1697	1697	0	1133	1116	17
Andhra Pradesh	662	662	0	660	660	0	581	563	18
Telangana	662	662	0	805	805	0	583	579	4
Chhattisgarh	264	264	0	266	266	0	302	237	65
Others	120	120	0	75	75	0	89	89	0
Total	118271	118174	97	114494	114256	238	111136	105948	5188
