

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

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2625  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**DECLINE OF SUGAR PRODUCTION**

2625. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR *ALIAS* VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) the reasons for 44 percent decline in sugar production in the initial six weeks of the 2024-25 season along with the details of measures to be taken by the Government to address the delay in crushing operations by sugar mills;
- (b) the reasons due to which only 144 sugar mills operational as compared to 264 during the last year;
- (c) whether the Government provides incentives for mills to commence crushing operations, if so, the details thereof and the details of sugar production in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) the manner in which the Government support States facing significant production declines and the details of the estimated impact of reduced sugar production on the industry and economy;
- (e) whether the Government propose to import sugar to meet domestic demand and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the manner in which the Government proposes to address the long-term decline in sugar production and whether the Government has any outline strategies to support sugar mills farmers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

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

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(a): The Sugar Season (Oct-Sept) starts from 1<sup>st</sup> of October of every year; however the crushing starts as per the maturity of sugarcane crop. In the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka, the sugarcane growth is slow due to the paucity of water and it will take more time to mature. Therefore, to avoid the harvest of immature sugarcane, both Maharashtra and Karnataka States have decided that the crushing operation for the year 2024-25 should commence from November 15th onwards. The decision of commencing the sugar factories late will help both sugar factories as well as sugarcane farmers by way of getting higher sugar recovery and sugarcane productivity.

As the crushing has been started in most of the States, the sugar production is expected to be sufficient to cater the domestic demand.

(b): As on 4.12.2024, 405 sugar mills have started crushing operation and more sugar mills are in process of starting their crushing operations.

(c): The Central Government does not provide any incentive for mills to commence crushing operation.

Sugar Production during current 2024-25 sugar season, upto 4.12.2024. in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh is as under:-

<b>State</b>	<b>Production in LMT</b>
Maharashtra	7.45
Karnataka	7.10
Uttar Pradesh	14.23

(d): Sugar production in the country is sufficient to meet the domestic consumption demand.

(e): No Sir.

(f) & (g): Sugar production in the country is sufficient to cater the domestic requirement. To liquidate excess stocks and to improve the liquidity position of sugar mills enabling them to make timely payment of cane dues of farmers, the Government has taken various short term interventions from time to time till Sugar Season 2020-21 viz. provided assistance to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane, extended financial assistance to sugar mills for maintenance of buffer stocks, extended financial assistance to sugar mills to facilitate export of sugar, extended soft loans to sugar mills, fixation of Minimum Selling Price of sugar etc. and interest subvention schemes to sugar mills/distilleries to enhance their ethanol production capacity, etc upto Sugar Season 2021-22.

Government is encouraging sugar mills/distilleries to divert excess sugar into ethanol, which would solve the problem of high inventories of sugar, improve liquidity of mills thereby help in timely payment of cane dues of farmers.

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