

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON**

INTER CROPPING OPTION TO AUGMENT CANE SUPPLY .

1689

Shri V. Hanumantha Rao

Will the Minister of COAL AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether with crushing capacity far outstripping sugarcane availability and growers moving to more remunerative crops, northern sugar mills are seeking to promote inter-cropping alternatives to retain farmer interest in cane;
- (b) whether sugarcane growers met P.M. on 16th November, 2009 and explained their miseries;
- (c) whether sugar mills are also looking at inter-cropping option to augment cane supplies;
- (d) if so, whether farmers were urged to grow short duration crops with cane; and
- (e) the concrete steps and measures Government has taken to grow short duration crops with cane and to what extent it has given good results?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Sir. The State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand as well as the sugar mills in Northern India are encouraging the promotion of inter-cropping of sugarcane with suitable crops in order to enhance the production of sugarcane and farm income so that farmers continue to grow and supply cane to sugar mills. The suitable inter-crop combinations in the Northern States, are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b): No, Sir. No such meeting took place on 16th November, 2009 between Hon`ble Prime Minister and sugarcane growers.

(c) to (e): Yes, Sir. The sugar mills located in the Northern States are focusing and promoting sugarcane inter-cropping with various other crops to augment the cane supply and increase the farm income. The farmers are pursued to grow short duration crops with sugarcane as a intercrop to increase their farm income through the demonstrations, trainings, farmers-scientists interface etc., to make sugarcane cultivation more remunerative.

The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) covered under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in major sugarcane growing States to increase production of sugarcane. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to States for transfer of technologies through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers as wells as farmers-scientist-interfaces, supply of critical inputs like farm Implements, planting materials, drip irrigation system etc. The results of frontline demonstrations conducted by scientists on inter-cropping during 2007-08 and 2008-09 showed significant increase in cane yields depending upon the location and combination of inter-crop. The results of such system, are given at Annexure-II.