

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 835

ANSWERED ON 10.12.2013

IMPORT OF SUGAR

835 Shri KATTI RAMESH VISHWANATH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to import or export sugar including raw sugar during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantity of sugar likely to be imported;

(c) whether the price of sugar in the domestic market has reduced considerably due to imports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding the impact of such sugar import on sugar industry and sugarcane farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to import or export of sugar on its own account during the current sugar season. However, the sugar mills/merchant importers-

exporters are free to import sugar including raw sugar as per their commercial prudence subject to payment of customs duty which is presently 15%. At current rate of customs duty and international sugar prices, no substantial quantity of sugar is likely to be imported under Open General Licence (OGL). As regards export, the same is free, subject to prior registration of quantity with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(c) to (e) The prices of sugar in the domestic market depends upon a number of factors viz. supply, demand, international sugar prices, global sugar situation and market sentiments etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the impact of one factor alone on reduction of its prices in the domestic market. In order to discourage import of sugar, the Government has increased the customs duty on import of sugar from 10% to 15% with effect from 08.07.2013.